Oxfordshire Guardian
DIDCOT EDITION

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Thursday, October 31 - Wednesday, November 6, 2013
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NO DONE DEAL

Didcot Wave decision still very much up in the air

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

SOUTH Oxfordshire District Council's leader has said she cannot give "any comfort" to residents who have concerns about the future of the Didcot Wave until she has more details about the new leisure centre.

Cllr Ann Ducker voted in favour of Cllr Eleanor Hards' motion at last week's district council meeting to acknowledge the "popularity and brand loyalty shown towards the Wave".

The motion also recommended that cabinet consults widely with "Didcot residents and those living within a 10 mile radius on plans for the Wave before any decisions are taken on its future".

Any proposals about the mixture of facilities at the new centre will go to Scrutiny Committee before any decisions are made.

SODC's Sport and Leisure study for Didcot recommends replacing the Wave with the new centre in the north-east of the town.

However, when asked if she could provide any comfort to people who have taken the recommendation as a tablet of stone, Cllr Ducker said she could not for the time being.

"I can't give them any comfort," she said.

"We have got to look at what we will be providing and what the finances are and only those people who are actually experienced in dealing with leisure facilities can feed us this information.

"Until we have an informed decision we can't even consult. I can't stress that enough."

She added: "The Wave could be replaced.

"The question that has to be asked, and we don't know the answer to this, is if there is a new facility will the Wave still be in a position of giving a financial return?"

At the meeting last Thursday, petitioner Des Healy had the opportunity to voice his concerns about the future of the Wave after his campaign attracted over 1,600 signatures from OX11 residents.

Mr Healy, a Didcot town councillor, spoke about the practicalities of people living in the south of the town travelling to the new leisure centre in the north east.

Cllr Ducker said: "I don't think that is a good enough reason, however I do at this moment have a very open mind.

"It is far too early for such a petition to have happened because we haven't made any decisions."

Cllr Bill Service, cabinet member for Leisure at SODC, added: "I'm not one for this north-south argument.

"The new leisure centre is something for the town. It is

• Continued on page 3

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The Oxfordshire Guardian Series is published by Taylor Newspapers Ltd.

Read this paper online at
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Parties reach club design compromise

AN OXFORD nightclub is set to be repainted following discussions between the owner and Oxford City Council's planning department.

Clems Nightclub is situated in the St Clement's conservation area, and council workers have been working with owner Luis Carrera to agree a new colour scheme which does not require planning permission or advertising consent.

Michael Crofton Briggs, head of city development at the city council, said: "Officers organised a lot of meetings with the owner to discuss the changes to the outside of the building.

"I am really pleased that our hard work has meant that the owner has shown us the colour scheme that he intends to use and that we have agreed it instead of tackling him through the enforcement process.

"This is a much more effective process for the council, and work is currently underway."

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

But club manager Bruno Garcia was disappointed with the enforced changes, and would rather it had stayed how it was.

He said: "We thought it was a very nice painting that pleased everybody, and we just wanted to bring a bit of happiness to the area.

"We had to do what we had to do to please all the parties interested. It's not what we wanted to do.

"Another artist was commissioned to paint it different but there were so many restrictions that they imposed that it was not worth doing anything.

"So we decided to paint over it again and go back to the way it was."

Clems artwork on the front of the building originally had the club's name painted in large letters, but the council said this exceeded the maximum height of 75cm and would need advertising consent.

When a subsequent design of cartoon characters and its website address was used, they were told by the council the design was not in keeping with the area.

Fraudster is told to pay back £8k in false claims

A BANBURY man has been ordered to pay back over £8,000 and complete 100 hours of community service after fraudulently claiming benefits and a council tax discount.

Alan Fraser Flett, 59, of Mascord Road, pleaded guilty to the charges at Banbury Magistrates' Court on Monday.

He has to pay back £7,289.69 in housing and council tax benefits to which he had no entitlement, and £1,045.45 he incorrectly received as a single person's discount for council tax.

Flett knowingly failed to report that a friend had moved in to live with him, and illegitimately received the benefits over the course of a three-year period as a result.

A member of the public helped bring the case to the attention of investigators and police, who subsequently gained access to Flett's property to secure evidence of the fraudulent activity.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for financial management, Cllr Ken Atack, was pleased with the outcome.

He said: "Thanks to an alert member of the public and joint working with the police, Cherwell District Council has caught another fraudster who will have to repay all the money he obtained under false pretences."

Fire chief reassures public over strikes

OXFORDSHIRE'S chief fire officer has reassured the public that emergency calls will be answered during two more planned periods of strike action.

Members of the Fire Brigade's Union are set to walk out again over a nationwide dispute about pay and pension reforms from 6.30pm to 11pm tomorrow and 6am to 8am on November 4.

A mixture of non-striking full-time firefighters and on-call personnel will be used to cover the latest planned strikes.

Chief fire officer Dave Etheridge said: "I would like to reassure the public that during the latest planned strike periods their Fire and Rescue Service will continue to answer and deal with every 999 call it receives."

Mr Etheridge has also highlighted practical steps people can take to keep homes safe during the planned strikes.

"I want to press home the simple things people can undertake to help me keep Oxfordshire as safe as possible during the industrial action," he said.

"Ensuring that your smoke alarm works; checking that your electrical sockets are not overloaded; making sure your vehicles are road-safe by checking tyre pressures - these are all easy but significant preventative tasks that people can do to help ensure safety."

Fire Service control room staff will not be affected and will continue as normal.

• *Oxfordshire's chief fire officer Dave Etheridge*

News Bites

Kitchen fire

FIRE crews were called to a kitchen fire in Brinkburn Groove, Banbury, on Monday evening, although damage was limited after the smoke alarm had alerted the owner to the blaze.

On arrival, crews were able to contain the fire to the kitchen, before ventilating the remainder of the property of smoke.

Watch manager David Edge said: "Due to the quick actions of the firefighters, damage was kept to a minimum. This incident undoubtedly shows the importance of having a working smoke alarm."

Hunt charges

TWO men have been charged with hunting offences following an incident of hare coursing in Britwell Salome, Watlington.

A 19-year-old and a 28-year-old from Slough were charged on Tuesday after being arrested on Monday for hunting a wild mammal with dogs, contrary to the Hunting Act 2004.

Both have been bailed to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on November 12.

Supermarket plans still on

SUPERMARKET chain Morrisons are still looking into building a store in Wallingford but admit additional planning conditions are "tough".

Two amendments were made at a South Oxfordshire District Council planning meeting in July, one of which was for the building to be built to BREEAM 'excellent' standard rather than 'very good'.

Cllr Bernard Stone, mayor of Wallingford, said: "The broad message is that they were tough conditions but Morrisons are looking at it and they haven't yet made a final decision."

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Edmonds Park sports facility is now open

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

NEWLY refurbished sports courts at Edmonds Park were officially opened at the beginning of this week.

Mayor of Didcot, Cllr Axel MacDonald was joined by Cllr Dorothy Brown, chair of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), to declare the courts open on Monday afternoon.

The newly resurfaced tennis, netball and basketball courts have been in use throughout the summer and used by three of the town's sports clubs.

Didcot Community Tennis Club, Didcot Netball Club and Didcot Devils Basketball Club all use the facility.

Cllr MacDonald said: "The town is expanding at a considerable rate which means there will always be a demand for new leisure facilities. It is important that the existing facilities remain because there is a demand for them. Even in these times of hardship there is still money out there to improve and provide these facilities.

"Didcot has got thriving clubs and societies that needs these facilities and it is great that we can provide them."

Members of Didcot Netball Club also attended the official opening and chair Helen Grindy was full of praise for the new surface.

"It's absolutely brilliant, a really good surface and non slip," she said. "We have been able to invite our waiting list over the summer and have taken on an extra age group.

"This is a really good step in the right direction for the club that we have this facility in the summer months."

SODC fully funded the project, which cost £30,000, using section 106 funding and its community grant scheme while Didcot Town Council own the site and managed the project.

Cllr Brown added: "It is great for the young people and it has been made into a brilliant new facility for everyone to enjoy tennis, netball and basketball."

• *Cllr Dorothy Brown and Cllr Axel MacDonald at the Edmonds Park sports courts and (inset) Didcot Netball Club using the facility*

Do you have a Didcot story?

Contact Jack
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk
or on **01235 516932**

News Bites

Fire rescue

AN ELDERLY lady was rescued by her carer last Saturday after a fire broke out in her flat.

The fire service was called to a fire in Fairacres Road at 12.34pm which is believed to have been started by a dropped cigarette falling into a wooden wicker basket.

Station Manager Marcus Reay said: "The lady that was rescued had a lucky escape. Cigarettes that fall on to sofas or cushions can easily result in far larger fires with tragic consequences."

Firework show

DIDCOT Rotary Club is holding its annual charity fireworks show, bonfire and fun fair this Saturday.

Gates open at Loyd Recreation Park, Brasenose Road, at 5.30pm and the bonfire will be lit at 6.15pm with fireworks at 7pm.

A family ticket on the gate is £12 while it is £4 for adults, £2.50 for OAP's and children aged between 4 and 16 and under threes go free.

She's a winner

AN 11-year-old girl from Didcot has won a national competition to design a Christmas card for National Garden Gift Vouchers.

Jessica Smart's winning card features a happy row of Christmas robins and will be on display and sold at retailers across the county.

Miss Smart also won £150 worth of gardening prizes.

'Proceedings are still at an early stage'

• *From front page*

not north, south, east or west."

Cllr Hards' motion was unanimously supported and she admitted that it does help in terms of saving the Wave from closure but that proceedings are still at an early stage.

She said: "At this stage we were anxious to leave things as open as we could and we were anxious to get support. I think we can build on it later in the process. The Wave won't be closing if we have anything to do with it. We're part way through a campaign, we're not at the end of it so there is no room for complacency."

However, Cllr Healy was more optimistic about the Wave's future.

"The way forward is the Wave will not be closing when the new facility is opening," he said. "We now look forward to the Wave being retained on its merits. If the district council did not know the view of the residents before then they do now."

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Angela McCole, Wallingford, mum of Iona, eight months.
"It's been a source of support and guidance. I would be devastated if it closed. It would be a real shame because it is an invaluable source. Not many people would continue to breast feed because they may not be able to resolve any problems."

Kamilya Le Masurier, Cholsey, mum of Ethan, seven months.
"It has helped me to keep on breast feeding. Everyone is very friendly and supportive aswell. We would become a bit more isolated and lose the support and the network that you are a part of here."

Wallingford baby café could close

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

WALLINGFORD'S Baby Café is facing closure just 12 months after it was first opened.

Based at the Ridgeway Community Church, the Baby Café needs about £5,000 to continue providing free breast feeding support for women in Wallingford and the surrounding villages.

Only four months ago, Gavin and Stacey star Joanna Page attended a grand party to celebrate its success but the threat of closure is looming despite its growing popularity with local mums.

"I thought they were all so fab," she said when informed of the potential closure. "It would be awful if the café closed."

The Baby Café was set up in November 2012 and funded the first year through a one-off lottery grant.

However, that is no longer an option while the Wallingford Children's Centre does not have the funds to help.

The Baby Café's midwife Rachel Fitz-Desorgher is now pleading with local businesses to help.

She said: "Giving our children our own milk cannot be seen as a luxury. Anything they can do to help support their local community is vitally needed and so appreciated.

"A hundred pounds here and there is lovely but in order to keep running we need big sums of money.

"A lot of the mums have said they would be happy to pay but that becomes exclusive. People should not have to pay for our help and support."

The café helps mums who want to breast feed but do not always have the support in place at home.

Ms Fitz-Desorgher added: "The mums tell us that it is the highlight of their week which is really nice.

"Most of the women are quite clear that if it were not for this area they would not have continued breast feeding."

The £5,000 needed to run the café covers the nine regular peer supporters, the training of staff, hire of the room and facilities as well as commodities.

Cllr Bernard Stone, mayor of Wallingford, has told the Guardian that he will meet the organisers of the Baby Café to discuss a way forward.

• *(From front to back) Midwife Rachel Fitz-Desorgher, supporter and doula Karen Mitchell and peer supporters Sally Martin with son Raffi, Camilla Preece and son Leo, Emily Shaw and Ellie Beaman outside the Wallingford Baby Café (Picture by Jack Johnson)*

Police step up patrols for Halloween

POLICE in Oxford are stepping up their patrols for Halloween this evening, to ensure residents' safety and prevent anti-social behaviour.

Area Commander Supt Christian Bunt, his deputy and their team of managers will be on the streets, to help neighbourhood teams carry out additional patrols during the evening.

Supt Bunt said: "We will have an operation in place with resources from the neighbourhood policing teams to help reassure residents during the evening and make sure that everybody behaves themselves.

"Most of these children or teenagers are just getting involved in the Halloween celebrations and will be friendly.

"But we don't want those people intent on causing trouble spoiling the fun for everyone else."

The neighbourhood teams will be supported by officers from the mounted section, along with CID officers patrolling the streets.

Police have also issued advice for people alone at home this evening, such as not opening the door if they are unsure who is there.

They also suggest having a contact number for a relative or friend nearby, so they can be called quickly and easily if they need to be.

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Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Cyclist appeal

POLICE are trying to trace a cyclist involved in a road traffic collision in Cowley, in order to return her bike.

At 2.15pm on October 2, a woman was cycling in Barracks Lane when she fell off her bicycle, and was taken to hospital with head injuries.

The bicycle is currently stored at Cowley Police Station and is ready to be collected by its owner.

Duo charged

A MAN and a woman have been charged by Thames Valley Police with possession of an offensive weapon and wounding with intent after an assault in Oxford.

The pair, from Oxford, were charged following an incident at Longlands Road in the city on October 19 where a 25-year-old man sustained arm injuries.

They appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Monday.

Expedition

A MAN raising money for an Oxford charity has begun his 4,000 mile expedition across the Atlantic.

Richard Mayon-White is aiming to raise £40,000, to be split between Sobell House Hospice and the national charity Sail 4 Cancer, by sailing from Gibraltar to Florida.

Relationship blog is a real heartwarmer...

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

WHEN a woman from Oxford started a blog to keep in touch with her army boyfriend while he was in Afghanistan little did she know it would prove to be a national hit.

Zoey Peace, who had only been dating Sam Garwood for six months, was so determined to keep her new love's moral high that she started a blog of her day-to-day activities.

She said: "I could tell he was down, so I told him that I'd write to him every day so he wouldn't miss a thing. I wanted to make him laugh."

Ms Peace's blog, 'Until February: Me Versus Six Months Without You', gained up to 18,000 hits a day with couples in a similar situation wanting to share the experience of being apart.

This inspired the 26-year-old to use the momentum to help boost troop moral, coming up with the #smilecampbastion initiative which was backed by Prime Minister David Cameron and Ant and Dec.

Ms Peace added: "I wanted to show the soldiers that everyone at home is thinking of them.

"When Number 10 tweeted me, I really couldn't believe it."

• *Sam Garwood and Zoey Peace*

She was also spurred on to start fundraising and organised a silent auction for military charities. The pair met via an online dating website in early 2012 and felt an instant attraction.

Mr Garwood said: "I knew I'd be posted to Afghanistan eventually, but it didn't make it any easier to tell Zoey. The amazing thing about her is that she never put any pressure on me and wanted me to go with a clear head."

Mr Garwood has now returned from Afghanistan and the couple are set to marry in December after he popped the question via Skype while on tour.

The couple have been nominated for the Ultimate Love Story Award at this year's Cosmopolitan Ultimate Women Of The Year Awards.

Headington girls in triumphant US trip

• *The girls celebrate after winning the First and Second Varsity Eights (Picture courtesy of Headington School)*

SCHOOLGIRLS from Oxford returned home yesterday after a victorious few weeks of rowing on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

The squad from Headington School picked up two gold medals at the Head of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia last Sunday following success at the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston a week earlier. On October 27 they won the Women's High School Fours with Cox and the Women's High School First and Second Varsity Eights.

The winning Headington boat was nearly four seconds ahead of its nearest rival in the Eights. A week earlier, the squad of 22 recorded three top 20 finishes in Boston and was the fastest non-American boat in every race.

It was the school's first rowing trip in the United States of America and Headmistress Caroline Jordan said: "It was a fantastic weekend of rowing.

"The girls performed extremely well and should be proud of their successes."

Headington School was successful earlier this summer as, between them, Hannah Tomlinson, Helena Lang and Sasha Adwani, all 17-years-old, picked up seven gold medals for Great Britain in Switzerland.

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City council to get £200k eco-grant

OXFORD City Council is set to receive almost £200,000 of funding to upgrade 11 buses and cut the pollution that the vehicles produce.

The funding was announced by transport minister Baroness Kramer, with money being given to five local authorities including Oxford.

It comes after an assessment of bids following the launch of the Clean Bus Technology Fund back in June, with 31 authorities nationally bidding for up to £1m of funding.

A spokesperson for the city council said: "The funding will go to Guide Friday City Sightseeing buses operated by Tom Tappin Ltd.

"The company will pay for the additional operating and maintenance costs of approximately £21,000 per annum, together with capital costs in excess of the grant.

"This will include in-cab driving aids that help drivers to improve their driving style, and reduce CO2 emissions."

Baroness Kramer said: "This extra funding means more buses can be cleaned up so that they put out less pollution. I look forward to seeing the results of the initiatives under the Clean Bus Technology Fund."

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Woman in court over child deaths

A WOMAN accused of the murders of two children in Oxford over 16 years ago has been refused bail following a hearing at Oxford Crown Court on Monday.

Fiaz Munshi, of Manley Road, Oldham, Lancashire, is facing murder charges of siblings Majid Khan, 15, and eight-year-old Anum Khan.

They were killed in an arson attack on their family home in Magdalen Road on August 26, 1997.

Petrol was squirted through the letterbox before a lit match was thrown through.

Five men were sentenced to life in prison for the murders following the trial in 1998, and at the time the court was told that Munshi had left the UK for Pakistan.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Munshi was subsequently arrested in Oldham on October 22, after an investigation by Thames Valley Police's major crime unit.

Mehfooz Khan, mother of Majid and Anum, said: "As a mother of these beautiful innocent children, I have been waiting for 16 years for this day.

"I have not been able to visit my son and daughter [at their graves] since they were innocently taken away from me.

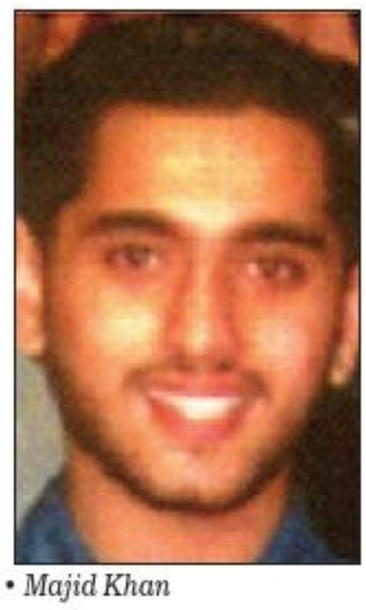
"Once justice has been done I have promised myself I will visit Majid and Anum for the first time after 15 years."

She thanked the police for their investigation, and hoped justice would be done in the end.

Munshi will next appear in court on February 3 next year for a plea and case management hearing.

Her trial is expected to start in April.

• *Anum Khan*



• *Majid Khan*

Groups get cultural funding for Christmas Light Festival

FIVE groups from across the city are celebrating after being awarded funding for cultural activity for this year's Christmas Light Festival.

Oxford City Council, with support from MINI Plant Oxford, has been able to offer grants of up to £1,500 for local groups to deliver new and innovative cultural programming for the festive weekend, which is held between November 22-24.

A total of £5,600 of funding has been awarded to Lunas Dance Project, Parton & Plath, Film Oxford, Arts at the Old Fire Station and Oxford Contemporary Music.

The groups will be putting on a wide range of cultural activity, from walkabout theatre in East Oxford to a programme of fire juggling, themed food and workshop activities in Gloucester Green.

Rachel Capell, city events officer at the council, said: "It is fantastic to be able to support local groups and encourage their involvement with the Christmas Light Festival."

News Bites

Vintage fair

LOU Lou's Vintage Fair is returning to Oxford, with 40 of the country's best vintage traders selling clothes and accessories from the 1940s right through to the 1980s.

It is the UK's largest roaming fair, and as well as clothes it will also have craft and home ware, collectables and a beauty salon on offer.

The fair is taking place on November 9, and will be based at Oxford Town Hall.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/oxfordvintage.

Lower prices

OXFORD United Football Club are offering reduced-price tickets to foster carers and their families.

The club are supporting Oxfordshire County Council's Fostering and Adoption Service this season.

All approved county council foster carers will be offered one reduced price adult ticket, up to two under 16 tickets and one family ticket per league match.

Maria White, from the Fostering and Adoption Service, said: "We hope that fans will want to find out more about the benefits of helping young people through fostering."

Oxfordshire Guardian

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A Wonnacott contribution

CONTEMPORARY painter John Wonnacott is the subject of The Oxfordshire Museum's contribution to the annual Art in Woodstock festival, currently taking place.

Wonnacott's work is being displayed at the museum as part of an event involving 30 artists, who are showing their art in various places around Woodstock.

He is well known for his 1997 painting of former Prime Minister John Major, and made headlines three years later with a large group portrait of the royal family.

Venues for his solo shows have included the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh, and the National Portrait Gallery in London.

In 2005, Wonnacott won the Ondaatje Prize for portraiture, and was awarded a CBE in 2000.

Pieces by David Ortega Del Campo and Caroline Rudge are also on display at the museum.

The festival itself started on Saturday, and as well as artists' work there are also a number of guest speakers and workshops taking place throughout the town.

Paul Mortimer, chairman of the festival, said: "We are all volunteers and involved with art in some way in our personal or professional lives, and we are very proud of the success of Art in Woodstock so far."

Shop fronts set to receive makeover

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

WALLINGFORD shopkeepers can help to brighten up the town centre by taking advantage of improving the look of their premises.

South Oxfordshire District Council and Wallingford Town Council have allocated a total of £10,000 in grant funding for a new shop front improvement scheme.

Open to all owners and tenants of premises in the town with commercial shop fronts, Cllr Bernard Stone, mayor of Wallingford, said it is more about maintaining the buildings than them being in desperate need of a lick of paint.

Cllr Stone said: "It is one of those things where one wants to keep on top of things and give the retailers and the businesses in the centre of the town the opportunity at times when trading is tough to give them a little bit of a spur and a boost.

"We are not saying the shops are being neglected and in desperate need but you've got to be constantly keeping on top of maintenance and regeneration and it is an ongoing issue that has to be addressed.

"We wanted to give that little bit of help to keep the appearance of the town centre smart and attractive."

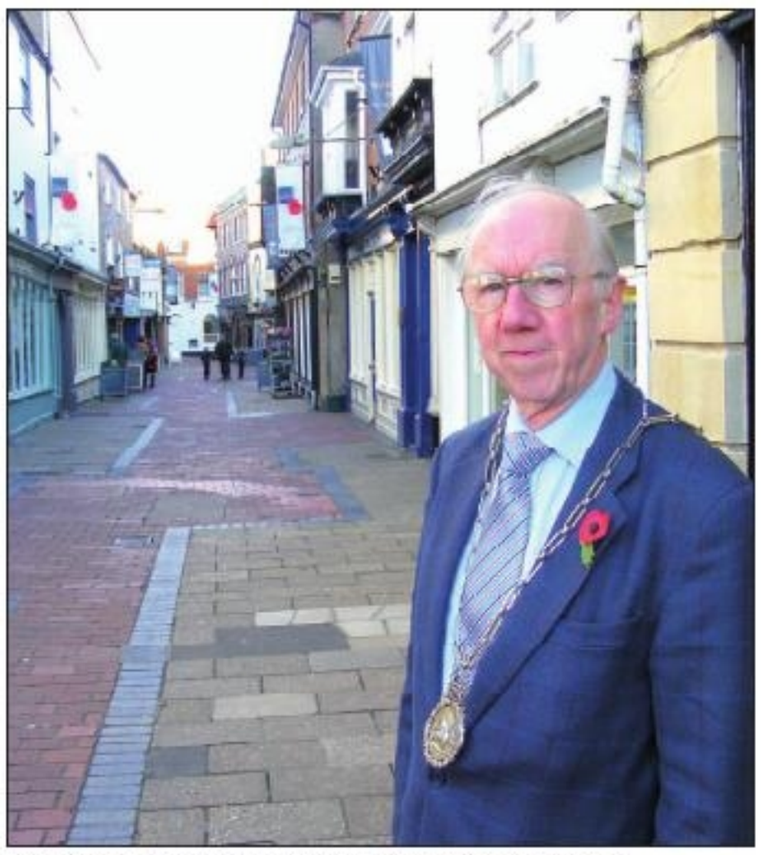
Cllr Stone also thinks that improving shop fronts could help the footfall in the town but says it is just one part of ongoing work that is done every year.

He said: "The shop front improvement scheme is a contributory factor. Like all the floral displays we put up in the summer, we also work on addressing some of the pavement issues and we are further reviewing the signage so it is one of a package of measures to help with the town centre. It is one of those things that you can look at every year and you can find something to do because it is an ongoing issue."

Applications for the scheme are open until the end of December and grants will be allocated in January but any money the councils allocate to a project will require 50 per cent match funding from the applicant.

Cllr Judith Nimmo-Smith, cabinet member for Economic Development, Property and Technical Services at SODC, said: "This is an exciting project for Wallingford.

"Helping to improve the frontages of retail businesses will not only encourage more people to shop but will also enhance the appearance of the town as a whole." Anyone interested in applying should contact Kate Rayner, Wallingford Market Town Coordinator, on 01491 823144.



• *Cllr Bernard Stone stands outside businesses on St.Mary's Street (Picture by Jack Johnson)*

News Bites

Care home fun

RESIDENTS at an Oxfordshire care home will enjoy some frightening fun as part of Halloween celebrations today.

Yarnton Residential and Nursing home will be hosting a range of activities, with the home being transformed with carved pumpkins and decorations that residents have been making in recent weeks.

Eco nappy fair

PARENTS are being encouraged to attend an environmentally friendly nappy fair in Wallingford this Saturday.

Taking place at the Regal Centre between 2.30pm and 4.30pm, washable nappies made from cloth will be available in an attempt to persuade parents to stop using disposables.

Get recycling

ELECTRICAL recycling banks are being reduced across Cherwell as more residents continue to use the new kerbside collection service. Currently, residents can recycle electrical goods and cables by placing them in plastic bags on top of their bins. Cherwell is now preparing to reduce the number of banks from 18 to six, which will generate further savings of £7,500.

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News Bites

Bad driver...

A BRIZE Norton man has been charged with a number of driving offences across the county.

He has been charged with one count of driving whilst disqualified, one count of driving without insurance, one count of making a false statement to obtain motor insurance, and one count of giving a false alias to DVLA, all in Witney on January 17.

Police also charged him with a further count of driving whilst disqualified, one count of driving without insurance and one count of intent to deceive, all in Brize Norton on March 25.

He has been released on unconditional bail until November 20 when he is due to appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court.

Men arrested

TWO men have been arrested on suspicion of burglary in Henley.

Offenders are believed to have used a tennis bag to carry stolen items out of a Grey's Hill home which was burgled between 7am and 8.30pm on October 15.

An iPad, camera and PlayStation console were stolen.

The men, aged 33 and 29 have been released on bail until November 20.

Quartet arrested in illegal worker raids

FOUR illegal workers have been arrested in West Oxfordshire following operations by Home Office Immigration Enforcement earlier this month.

Acting on intelligence, officers visited Judd's Garage, of Woodleys, Woodstock, and Shaan Indian restaurant, of Corn Street, Witney, on October 18.

They then questioned individuals as to whether they had the right to be in the UK.

A 23-year-old Indian man was arrested at Judd's at around 5.15pm, after it was determined he had entered the country illegally.

Three Bangladeshi men were then arrested at 8.05pm at Shaan, one of which was a 21-year-old who had overstayed his visa.

The other two, aged 28 and 35, had entered the country illegally, and all four were transferred to immigration detention pending removal from the country.

Both businesses were served notices warning that civil penalties of up to £10,000 per illegal worker could be imposed, unless they can provide proof that they carried out the correct right-to-work checks.

This means there is a potential fine of £30,000 for Shaan, and £10,000 for Judd's.

Paul Smith, from the Thames Valley and Surrey Home Office Immigration Enforcement team, said: "The message to employers in Oxfordshire who choose to use illegal labour is clear.

"That is we will catch you and you will face a heavy penalty.

"Illegal working has a negative impact on communities. It defrauds the taxpayer, undercuts honest employers and cheats legitimate job seekers out of employment opportunities.

"I would urge members of the public with information about suspected immigration abuse to get in touch."

Employers unsure of the steps they need to take to avoid hiring illegal workers can visit www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk or call 0300 123 4699. Anyone with information about suspected immigration abuse can contact Crimestoppers.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

Oxford University students' day at the races

STUDENTS from Oxford University took part in the inaugural National Student Raceday last Saturday, as part of an initiative from Great British Racing designed to encourage a younger generation of fans.

They were part of over 1,000 students from more than 30 universities, with six courses across the UK offering discounted entry to students.

It meant that Saturday's racing could be watched by students for £10 at Aintree, Chepstow, Doncaster, Newbury, Wolverhampton and Stratford.

Oxford University student Jess Rodger, who was at Stratford, said: "It has been great to have been able to share my passion for racing with other students and to get them along to the races.

"There were people who had never been racing before and I really hope that the day sparked their interest in the sport."

Rod Street, chief executive of Great British Racing, added: "We're pleased that so many students attended and we look forward to growing the initiative even further next year.

"Racing is a fantastic day out for students with its great sporting action, fantastic facilities, well-priced food and drink and is a great social occasion.

"We're grateful to all of the courses that have participated and who have made the day such a success."

• *Students enjoy racing at Stratford on Saturday*

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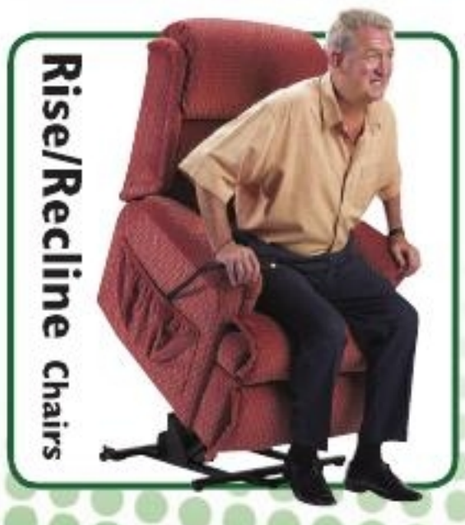

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WODC's pledge for better broadband

WEST Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) has announced they are exploring options to secure high-speed broadband coverage for rural areas of the district.

WODC leader Cllr Barry Norton has said he wants the council to look at investment opportunities to improve faster coverage for more parts of the district.

This would be in addition to Oxfordshire County Council's 'Better Broadband' project, who are working with BT to bring £25m of improvements to high-speed coverage across the county.

In West Oxfordshire, these improvements would mean that 88 per cent of premises in the district would be served by high-speed broadband.

Speaking at a council meeting last Wednesday, Cllr Norton said coverage should be extended, where possible, to parts of the district not included in the county council plans.

"This would bring huge benefits to the local economy in rural West Oxfordshire, where many people work from home or run local businesses," he said.

There is an option under the countywide scheme for district councils to work with BT to extend their coverage, but Cllr Norton said they would explore all options available.

TV veterans host charity golf day

A CELEBRITY Golf Day in Bicester has raised more than £20,000 for children's hospice Helen and Douglas House, which was hosted by actors Dennis Waterman and Warren Clarke.

The 'Clarke Waterman Celebrity Golf Day' saw 45 people in teams of three join up with a list of celebrities, which included Will Mellor, Kevin Whately and Willie Thorne.

Guests were also entertained with a dinner and presentation ceremony to the winning teams, as well as a silent and live auction running through the evening.

Warren Clarke said: "I am absolutely delighted that this golf day raised so much money for this wonderful local charity.

"I have seen first hand the wonderful work Helen and Douglas House do to help support families who have children and young adults with life-shortening conditions.

"I am glad we have been able to help in some way."

Dennis Waterman added: "It was a wonderful day which everyone really enjoyed and I am delighted that we far exceeded the fundraising target we set.

"I am so pleased we managed to raise over £20,000 for Helen and Douglas House. Events like this can make a real difference.

"This money will help many local families who have come to depend on the vital support this wonderful charity provides."

Helen and Douglas House community fundraiser Janet Carruzzo said: "I would like to thank everyone who took part in the golf day and who donated auction items for their generosity. The money raised at this event will help us provide vital respite breaks, end of life care and post bereavement support for local families.

"Without events like these and other voluntary donations, we would not be able to provide the vital support our families need."

The event took place last month, and was held at the Bicester Hotel and Golf Spa.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• Over £20,000 was raised for Helen and Douglas House at the Celebrity Golf Day in Bicester

News Bites

Path robbery

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a 19-year-old woman was the victim of an attempted robbery as she was walking along the footpath from Queens Avenue towards Bicester Road, in Kidlington.

At 10.30am on October 22, an offender tried to snatch a shoulder bag from the victim and pushed her to the ground, but ran away when a member of the public shouted at him.

Bike stolen

A BLUE Raleigh bicycle was stolen from a property in Witney on October 23.

Between 4.45pm and 7.45pm, offenders gained entry to the house in Southleigh Road, High Cogges, by smashing a window.

They carried out a search and left with the bike which was in the garden.

Trio charged

THREE men have charged in connection with hunting offences in Watlington.

Aged 49, 25 and 26, the men were all charged with one count of trespassing at night and taking or destroying a rabbit or rabbits on farmland at Britwell Salome on October 23. They will appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on November 8.

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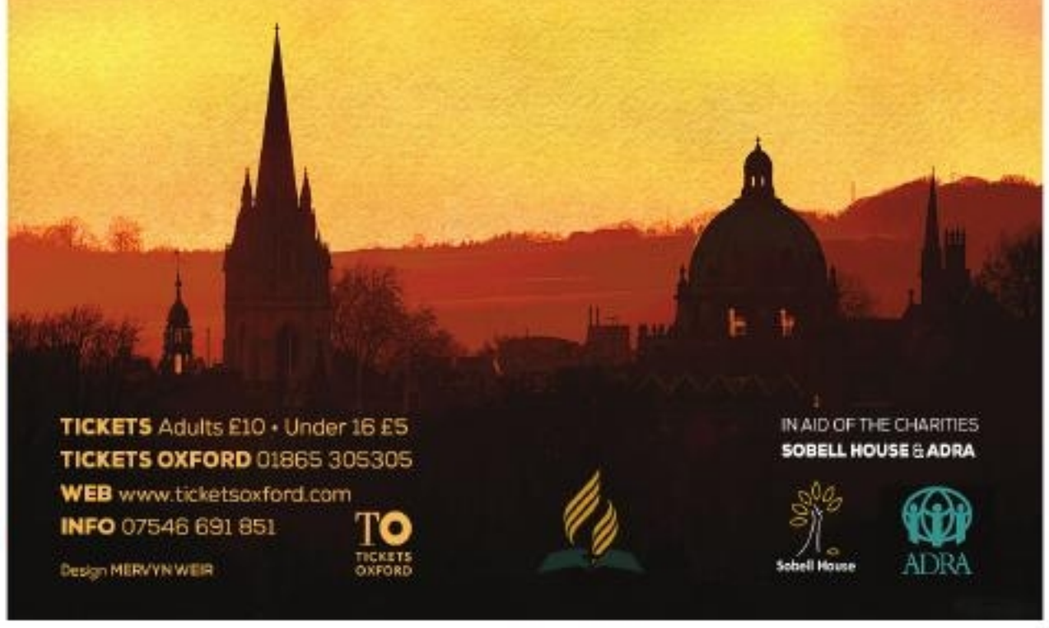

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Business Bites

Storyscape

LEADING manufacturing, logistics and consulting group, Unipart, has created a 30m long storyscape at its Oxford headquarters to mark the 20th anniversary of its employee learning initiative, the Unipart U.

Now one of the longest established corporate universities in the UK, it was opened in 1993 by the Minister for Education with the mission 'to train and inspire Unipart's people to achieve world class performance within the company and amongst its stakeholders'.

Using graphics, the storyscape explains why learning has been a fundamental element of Unipart's competitive edge, and maps the route that any employee can follow to develop expertise in his or her role.

Fighting back!

BICESTER Chamber's latest 'Business Fights Back' event focuses on the High Street. Called 'Restoring Your Profitability', it's on November 12 from 6-8pm at the town's John Paul II Centre, Bicester, and is aimed at owners, partners and managers of independent retail shops, along with those who support them.

You can book online at www.bicesterchamber.co.uk.

Oxon business part of the Beautiful South!

EIGHT Oxfordshire tourism businesses have been shortlisted for this year's prestigious Beautiful South Awards.

With title sponsors, Shepherd Neame, the Awards celebrate the very best in tourism and hospitality across 16 categories and will be presented at a ceremony on November 27.

Oxfordshire finalists are Bill Spectre's Ghost Trails, Oxford (Category: Tourism Experience), Blenheim Palace (Business Tourism), Burford Visitor Information Centre (Sustainable Tourism), Didcot Railway Centre (Small Visitor Attraction), The Feathered Nest, Nether Westcote (Outstanding Customer Service, Flavour of the South East, Tourism Pub), Fallowfields Hotel and Restaurant, Kingston Bagpuize (Small Hotel), Wallingford Food Festival (Tourism Event), and Weber Grill Academy, Marsh Baldon (Tourism Experience).

By **Iain Nicholson**
news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Meanwhile, Oxfordshire web design and development specialists OXLink are helping boost business for one of Oxford's most visible tourism/visitor companies. They've just finished a major rebuild of the Guide Friday City Sightseeing Oxford website - www.citysightseeingoxford.com

Guide Friday City Sightseeing Oxford operates one-hour guided sightseeing tours of Oxford and their distinctive red and now also green open-topped buses are a familiar sight on the city's streets. General Manager, Jane Marshall, says: "The website is a key sales tool for us as we get a lot of visitor/tourist customers who want to plan their trip to Oxford before they get here. The innovations OXLink have introduced bring us up to speed with current technologies and make it easier for customers."

OXLink, based in Chalgrove, have just celebrated their 18th birthday and Director Lance Dorman, says his team drew on that experience for this job: "We've been able to create a website that works for City Sightseeing Oxford but also incorporates features we can offer to other customers who want to make the best use of what their website can do," he said.

• *Jane Marshall (Guide Friday City Sightseeing Oxford) and Lance Dorman (OXLink)*

Business Matters

Guest columnist Grant Hayward of Collaborent Ltd

About solving and preventing

CHARITIES and social enterprises are increasingly positioning themselves to provide high quality, professional services to solve and prevent business and personnel problems.

When I moved from the private sector to the voluntary sector in 2009, the recession was upon us and the cuts were really beginning to hit. Having battled for survival over many years in a shrinking industry, much of my time had been spent adapting, reinventing and re-structuring. What I didn't appreciate was that many charities had no idea how to do that.

Around 8,000 charities and community groups throughout Oxfordshire are doing amazing work supporting a wide array of needs that would otherwise remain unsupported. I was blown away by the expertise, professionalism and dedication that most people in the sector exhibited on a daily basis.

Now I work and volunteer to bring businesses and charities together for mutual benefit.

I help companies develop their business and their people, opening up a new dimension of opportunities, which also adds social value. I also help charities understand and develop what they have to offer that is of value to businesses.

One example my business, Collaborent, is supporting is The WHY? event, which showcases the hidden expertise and professional services available to businesses from charities and social enterprises. Unipart have generously donated their Conference Centre in Cowley on Wednesday, November 6 from 3-6pm.

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Ford Options Representative Example. Ford KA Studio 3dr 1.2 69PS*

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Total Charge for Credit	£548.83	Duration of Agreement	25 Months
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Surrounded by music

Stage Beauty

CLASSICAL theatre show The Compleat Female Stage Beauty is being staged at the Didcot Cornerstone on Saturday, set in London during the reign of Charles II in 1661.

After decades of austerity, the playhouses have reopened their doors, and crowds flock to see the exquisite beauty and charm of actress, and man, Edward Kynaston.

Tickets for the show cost £16 for an 8pm start. Go to www.cornerstone-arts.org or call 01235 515144 for more details.

Mad Dog Mcrea

WITH their mix of folk, pop, rock, jazz and bluegrass music, Mad Dog Mcrea come to Oxford on Sunday, with a performance at The Bullingdon.

It is part of a 27-date tour taking place throughout November, as they prepare to release their eponymous album in the coming days. For more details, go to www.maddogmcrea.co.uk.

FOLK-POP musician Robbie Boyd and his band return to Oxford as part of a 12-date national tour coming to The Jericho Tavern on Saturday evening.

Robbie has had a busy year, performing live on radio, television and in front of 35,000 people at the Olympic Park supporting McFly and The Feeling.

So far he has released three critically acclaimed EPs, backed up by the recent release of his latest single 'Under My Skin'.

Despite being a solo artist for the first four years of his career, Robbie has been performing with a band for the past two and a half years, working with a number of different musicians.

"Around the time I realised people pay more attention to a band," said Robbie.

"I suppose it brings more life to the songs, and I just really enjoy working with other musicians.

"My mates put a band together for me, and it was an amazing experience.

"I didn't ever want to go back from it.

"Now we're up to seven other musicians, so we just kept expanding."

The number of band members Robbie performs alongside can vary to gig to gig, ranging from two accompanying musicians on stage to seven.

Talking about how he first got into music, Robbie added: "I've always been surrounded by music from my parents and sisters and just loved it.

"I've gone to a lot of gigs in my life and played the guitar from an early age.

"But it was not until four years ago when I started to take it seriously."

The show starts at 7.30pm. For more information, contact The Jericho Tavern on 01865 311775.

Alternatively, visit Robbie's website: www.robbie-boyd.com.

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facebook.com/OxfordshireGuardian

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Robbie Boyd brings his national tour to Oxford on Saturday*

Susan Cadogan

ONE of the Caribbean's best-loved singers, Susan Cadogan comes to the Oxford O2 Academy tomorrow, to perform hits from her extensive and celebrated career.

Her previous hits have included 'Love My Life', 'Hurt So Good' and 'Love Me Baby', as the Jamaican-born singer sings all the favourites from over 40 years of showbusiness.

The show starts at 8pm. For more information, go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk or call 0844 477 2000.

Armstrong is in Oxford

POPULAR actor and comedian Alexander Armstrong is in Oxford on Monday, sharing his love of comedy and music in his brand new stage show.

Playing alongside his band, Alexander performs a selection of his favourite songs, interspersed with anecdotes and his famous self-deprecating humour.

For more details about the show, go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

Alternatively, phone 01865 305305.

Oxfordshire Guardian

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Halloween Quiz & Fun Fancy Dress Night - Thursday, 31st October 2013
7pm, The Masons Arms Pub, 5 Park Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon OX29 6RZ
Entry £3 Enjoy a bit of ghoulish fun in the pub that will be spooktacularly decorated for this event! Fancy dress is encouraged, but optional. Food available if ordered in advance. For more information contact Karen on 07835 109617 or Jill on 07867 724889.

Halloween Party - Friday, 1st November 2013, 6.30pm onwards
The Masons Arms Pub, 5 Park Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon OX29 6RZ
Entry Adults £2, Children £1 Come and enjoy a spooktacular party for both adults and children. There will be a Bar, Music, Face Painting, Apple Bobbing, Lucky Dip, Fancy Dress, Teddy Tombolla, Pin the Nose on the Witch, Drawing, Colouring, Light Refreshments and a Raffle. There will also be prizes for the best fancy dressed male, female, boy and girl. For more information contact Karen on 07835 109617 or Jill on 07867 724889.

BeDazzled! It's PARTY Time! - Saturday, 2nd November 2013
8pm–1am, The Langdale Hall, Langdale Gate, Witney, Oxon OX28 6AB
It's time for you to don your best outfit and sparkle!*! This event is all about dressing up, feeling special and having fun! Don a glamorous face mask, hat, wig or head piece or just come along in your best outfit – dressing up is optional! On the night there will be the fabulous Sound-Out Disco, light refreshments and a grand Charity raffle. Tickets/Entry £7. Tickets are available from Nicky Clargo on 07754 271831 or M&Co, Market Square, Witney. Smart Dress.

Riverside Dinner Dance & All That Jazz! - Saturday, 16th November 2013
7pm–12.30am, Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford Hill, Wallingford, OX10 8LZ
This event offers a delicious three course dinner with dancing, entertainment and a grand charity raffle. In between courses the wonderfully talented Skeptics, an A'capella Trio, will sing for us and after the meal the Oxford Jazz Collective will play a mixture of jazz, swing and funk to get your toes tapping and tempt you on to the dance floor. To finish the night we have Ann-Marie Warner a solo pop artists covering your favourite artists including Adel. There will also be a disco until 12.30am. Tickets cost £25 per person with all proceeds being donated to Oxfordshire Mind. Tickets are available in advance only. Please contact nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk for a copy of the menu. Dinner guests may book reduced rate rooms at the hotel - single, double or twin rooms £35 per room.

Everyone Welcome! For more information please contact nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk 07754 271831 or visit www.facebook.com/mind gigs-events

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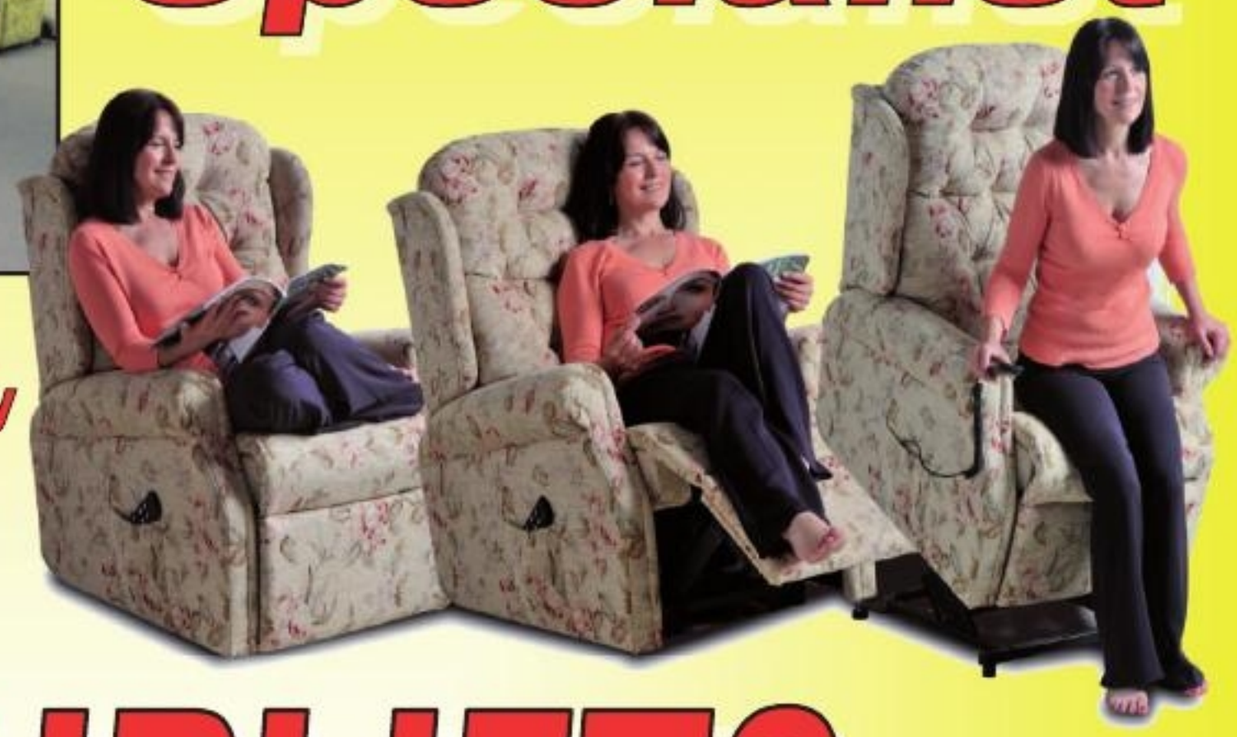

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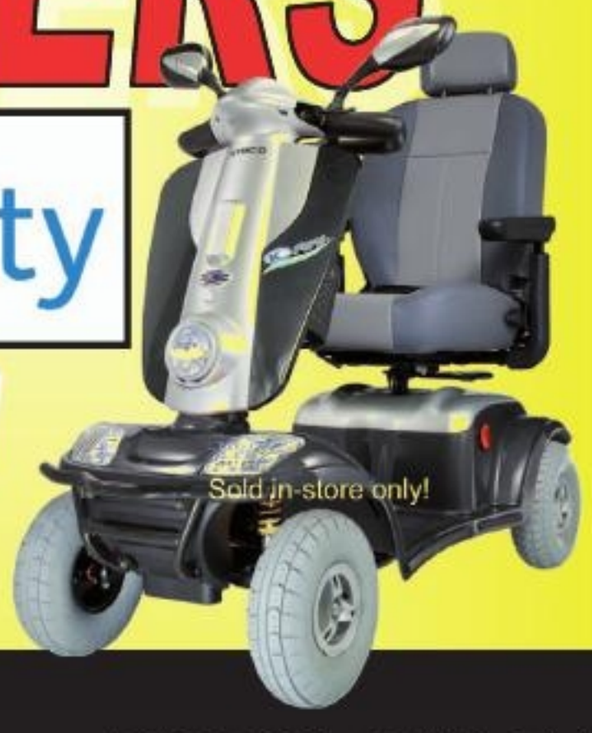

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Directed by Julie Huntington

Musical Director: Alan Lineham Choreographer: David Parsonson

Kenton Theatre New Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BP
13th -16th November 2013
01491 575698

Additional lyrics by Michael Yelland and Frank Bacon
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www.henleyoperatic.co.uk Charity No. 259404 Original watercolour by Susie Lord

Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice- The Musical*

First published in 1813, Jane Austen's classic novel follows the main character "Elizabeth Bennet" as she deals with issues of manners, upbringing, morality, education, and marriage in the society of the landed gentry of early 19th-century England. Elizabeth is the second of five feisty daughters of a country gentleman living near the fictional town of Meryton in Hertfordshire. Though the story is set at the turn of the 19th century, it retains a fascination for modern readers, continuing near the top of lists of most loved books – possibly the first "Mills and Boon" of its type. It has become one of the most popular novels in English literature and receives considerable attention from literary scholars. Modern interest in the book has resulted in a number of dramatic adaptations and an abundance of novels and stories imitating Austen's memorable characters or themes. Up until now, there has been no musical version but this delightful adaptation by Bernard J Taylor brings a whole new dimension to Austen's tale. With amusing characters and enchanting melodies, this new musical is a true tribute to the 200th Anniversary of this enduring novel. To date, the book has sold some 20 million copies worldwide.

November 2013
Wed – Fri 13 -15 at 7.45pm Sat 16 at 2.30 and 6.30pm

No of Tickets

Date	Price	Stalls	Balcony	No of Concessions	Total Number	Total due
Wed 13*	£14 Concessions					
Thurs 14	£14					
Fri 15	£15					
Sat 16* **2.30pm**	£14 Concessions					
Sat 16 **6.30pm**	£15					

***Concessions:** ~ £1 Senior Citizens, Friends of Kenton Theatre & HAODS members
Children under 16 £8 all performances ~ Party bookings: Buy 10 get one free

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To book by post, please send cheque made payable to HAODS with completed order form + SAE to:

HAODS Advance Box Office, Old Timbers, Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AN

OR Book on line at www.kentontheatre.co.uk, or call The Box Office: **01491 575698**
Or click on the link to the Kenton Theatre on our website, www.henley-operatic.co.uk
HAODS is a registered charity no 259404

Entertainment

Local entertainments, ranging from professional to amateur acts

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We love playing in Oxford

Fleetwood Bac

FLEETWOOD Mac tribute band Fleetwood Bac are on stage at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre this evening, replicating the classic Stevie, Lindsey, Christine, John and Mick line-up.

They have been endorsed by Mick Fleetwood himself, and have previously been ranked as one of the top-five best tribute acts in the UK.

Tickets for the show cost £12 for an 8pm start.

Go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk or call 01295 297002 for more details or to book your tickets.

Count Dracula

JONATHAN Goddard plays the infamous vampire count Dracula at the North Wall Arts Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday, in this dance spectacular.

The production uses 10 dancers to bring Bram Stoker's haunting tale to life.

Both shows start at 8pm.

AMERICAN jazz and western swing trio Hot Club of Cowtown arrive in Oxford tomorrow evening, as part of their UK tour running through November.

The trio is made up of Whit Smith, Elana James and Jake Erwin, who have been playing together since 2000, despite a brief hiatus between 2005 and 2008 that only included occasional performances.

Last year they released their latest album 'Rendezvous in Rhythm', and their upcoming show will feature songs from their newest release as well as a variety of old favourites.

"We love playing in Oxford," said Whit. "There is always a positive, vibrant energy flowing between the audience and the band, and we definitely respond well to that.

"Our shows don't follow a written set list, so even though there is a promotional push with 'Rendezvous in Rhythm' which is all acoustic swing, we still play our originals and western swing as well."

As well as coming to the UK, Hot Club of Cowtown have been staging shows internationally,

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

and have toured as musical ambassadors to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Oman.

They have also played alongside musical greats including Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson, as well as numerous radio and television appearances.

"Our music happens to be influenced by styles predating rock and roll," Whit added. "That leaves you open to certain stigmas and expectations.

"We are anything but a stodgy group of quaint revivalists, we play by the seat of our pants!

"We solo spontaneously and feel as fresh and original as any contemporary band playing within modern harmony."

Friday's performance starts at 7.30pm. For more information and ticket details, go to the band's website: www.hotclubofcowtown.com.

• *Hot Club of Cowtown make a return visit to Oxford on Friday*

Bryan Ferry

RENOWNED musical icon Bryan Ferry is at the Oxford New Theatre on Sunday, for his first major UK tour in six years.

Sunday's show will feature the Bryan Ferry Orchestra, with whom he has just released the highly acclaimed instrumental album 'The Jazz Age', as he performs a selection of songs from his 40-year career.

The show starts at 7pm. For more information, call 0844 871 3020 or visit www.newtheatre-oxford.co.uk.

It's rock and roll Joseph!

THE story of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat is played out at Henley's Kenton Theatre from Friday, told entirely through '50s rock and roll, country and western and calypso music.

It is being performed by amateur youth group Act Now Entertainment, which works with young actors and actresses aged five to 21.

For a full list of start times and booking information, go to www.kentontheatre.co.uk or call 01491 575698.

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Deposit Allowance	£1,500	Purchase Fee	£10
Cash Price	£16,853.63	Excess Mileage Charge	6p Per Mile
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Optional Final Payment/GMFV	£7,906	Borrowing rate fixed APR Representative	4.01% 4.9%

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24 Monthly Payments	£189	Total Amount Payable	£12,940.57
Customer Deposit	£1,838.57	Facility Fee	£10
Deposit Allowance	£250	Purchase Fee	£10
Cash Price	£12,125	Excess Mileage Charge	6p Per Mile
Total Charge for Credit	£801.57	Duration of Agreement	25 Months
Optional Final Payment/GMFV	£6,302	Borrowing rate fixed APR Representative	3.99% 4.9%

4.9% APR Representative

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Entertainment

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To 30 November, 10am - 5.30pm
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01865 515 123

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To 1 November, 10am - 4pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
FREE HALLOWE'EN MASKS
Make yourself a scary mask. Suitable for all ages (childrenmust be accompanied by an adult)
www.cornerstone-arts.org

To 2 November
Oxford Playhouse
THE PRODUCERS
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

31 October, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
CLAY SCULPTURE
It's Hallowe'en – create spooky creatures and ghostly apparitions in clay at our ever-popular course, messy fun for all!
Tickets £14, for ages 5-12 years (adult goes free when accompanied by a child) www.cornerstone-arts.org

31 Oct - 1 Nov, 10.30am - 12pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
YOUTH DANCE
Tickets £14, for ages 5-7 years
www.cornerstone-arts.org

31 October, 8pm
Abingdon Guildhall
COMEDY CLUB
01235 524085

1 November, 7.30pm
The Bullingdon, Oxford
HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN
Anamazing Trio from Austin, Texas.
Tickets £17 adv/£19 door
01865 244516

1 November - 2 November
Glee Club Oxford
ANDREW O'NEILL, DAVE FULTON, RUDI LICKWOOD, ANDREW STANLEY
0871 472 0400 www.glee.co.uk/oxford

1 November, 10.30am - 4pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
AMAZING ANIMATION
Take one day to become anamazing animator!
Tickets £30, for 9-13 years
www.cornerstone-arts.org

2 - 24 November, 10.30am - 4.30pm
West Ox Arts Gallery Bampton
MEMBERS EXHIBITION
Artwork will include jewellery, ceramics, glass, handmade books, sculpture plus wall hung artwork.
01993 850137
www.westoxarts.com

2 November, 3pm - 8pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
JONATHAN POWELL PERFORMS WORLD PREMIERE
Jonathan Powell gives World Premiere of Sorabji's Piano Symphony no.6.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

2 November, 8pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
THE COMPLEAT FEMALE STAGE BEAUTY
A big cast, big set and big costumes promises a production that won't fail to enhance production company Mappa Mundi's reputation for irreverent adaptations of classical theatrical and literary works.
www.cornerstone-arts.org

2 November, 7.30pm
Drayton Village Hall
THE NIGHTINGALES
By Peter Quilter, presented by BreakaLeg Productions.
A very funny 'show business' comedy, bursting with one-liners and lovable characters.
01235 821351
www.draytonvh.co.uk

3 November, 1pm - 2pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
PRE-SHOW WORKSHOP FOR ARTHUR'S DREAM BOAT
Join in with company members in this hands-on session as you make your very own dream boat hat to sail away with and take home.
Tickets £6 or £10 for show and workshop, suitable for ages 3-8.

3 November
Bullingdon Arms Oxford
MAD DOG MCREA
www.maddogmcrea.co.uk

4 November, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB.
BERNARD TUCKER MEMORIAL - BIRD SENSE: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BIRD? - DR TIM BIRKHEAD
www.oos.org.uk/programme.php

6 November - 9 November
Oxford Playhouse
CIPHERS
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

8 November, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
PIATTI QUARTET
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

8 November
Oxford Playhouse
CHARLES SIMONYI LECTURE
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

8 November - 9 November
Glee Club Oxford
ANDREW BIRD, GEOFF NORCOTT, SOL BERNSTEIN, DAMIAN CLARK
0871 472 0400 www.glee.co.uk/oxford

8 November, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
HILLFORTS OF THE RIDGEWAY: LIVING WITH THE WHITE HORSE
www.twhas.org.uk

2 November - 7.30pm
Jericho, Oxford
ROBBIE BOYD + SUPPORT
The sensational Robbie Boyd announces a concert in Oxford as part of his eagerly awaited national tour!

9 November, 5:55pm
Vue Bicester, Cineworld Didcot, The Regal Henley, Phoenix Picturehouse Oxford, Cineworld Witney
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The third of The Met: Live in HD
Metopera.org/uk

9 November, 7.30pm - 11.30pm
The Langdale Hall, Witney
ALVIN STARDUST ROCK N ROLL SHOW
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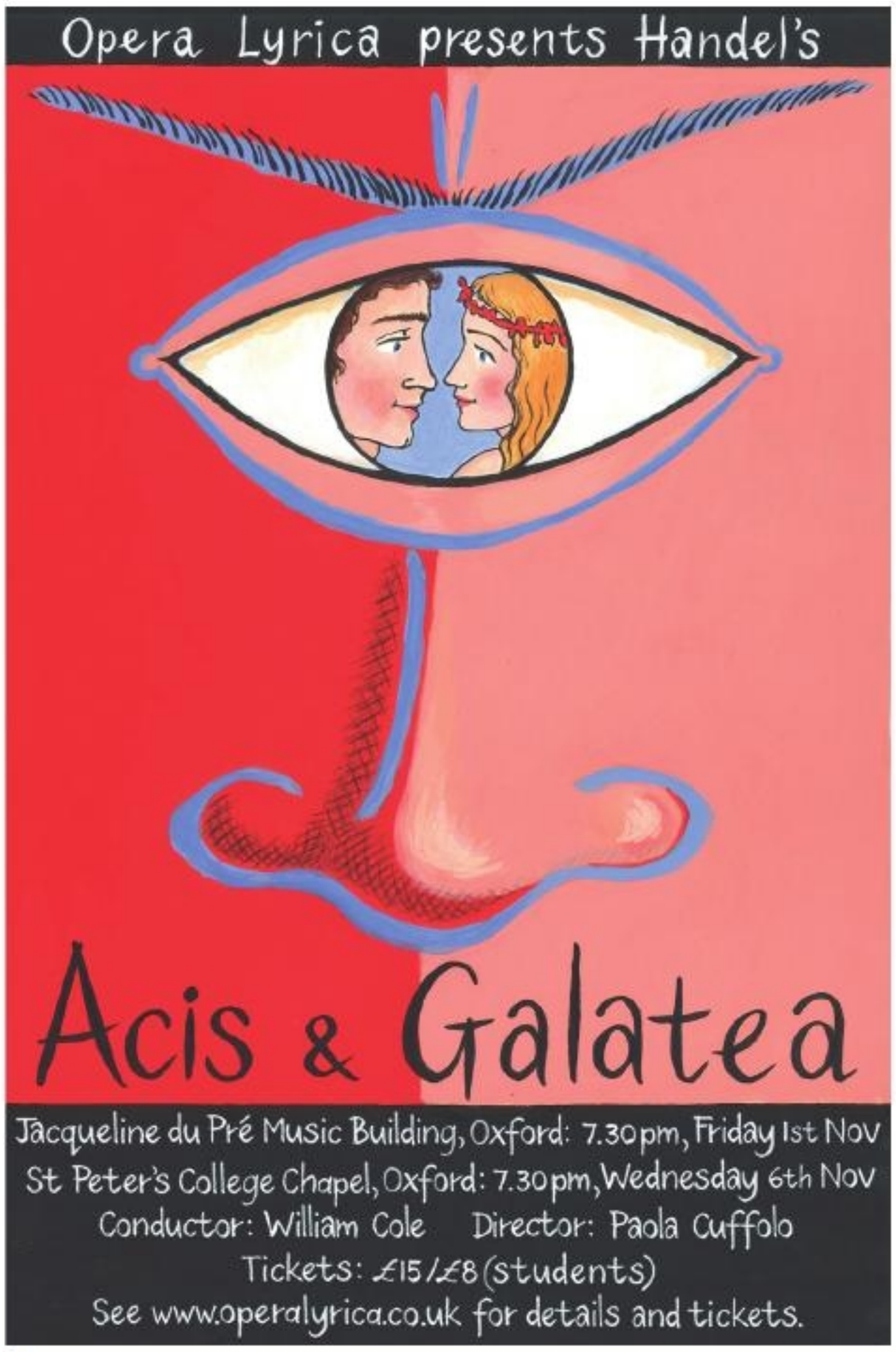
Opera Lyrica presents Handel's
Acis & Galatea
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, Oxford: 7.30pm, Friday 1st Nov
St Peter's College Chapel, Oxford: 7.30pm, Wednesday 6th Nov
Conductor: William Cole Director: Paola Cuffolo
Tickets: £15/£8 (students)
See www.operalyrica.co.uk for details and tickets.

The Bell Inn

Ducklington, OX29 7UP
telephone 01993 700341

FOOD SERVED DAILY
Senior citizens menu, £4.95 one course, £7.50 two courses, £10 three courses
SUNDAY ROAST *(probably the best in Oxford)*
A choice of 5 different meats, smaller portions catered for
Serving food until 9pm every night, Sundays until 8pm
Bookings strongly advisable
B&B available from £60 per night for a double room

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Book Now for Christmas

Where to celebrate?

Our tips start on page 26

BRASSERIE
BLANC

DREAMING OF
A BLANC CHRISTMAS

Our Christmas menu is a festival of fabulous food! Freshly prepared, highest quality ingredients and a choice that is second to none.

We're throwing open our doors on Christmas Day for the first time ever. Join in the festivities and enjoy our specially created festive menu.

JOUR DE NOËL
25 Décembre 2013

CHAMPAGNE *or* BUCKS FIZZ
& amuse bouches

WHITE ONION SOUP, TRUFFLE CREAM

HOME-SMOKED LOCH FYNE SALMON
& GRILLED LOBSTER SALAD

PAN FRIED DUCK BREAST, LEG CONFIT, RÖSTI POTATOES,
BLACK CHERRY SAUCE
or
ROBERT CALDECOTT'S HOLLY FARM ROAST
TURKEY BREAST, BONED THIGH WITH CHESTNUT STUFFING,
SLOW ROASTED CHRISTMAS VEGETABLES, BUTTERED SPROUTS,
BREAD SAUCE, GRAVY

CHRISTMAS PUDDING, BRANDY BUTTER
or
MONT BLANC
meringue, sweet chestnut, crème chantilly, vanilla ice cream

TRADITIONALLY MADE SEASONAL CHEESES

COFFEE *or* TEA & MINCE PIES

Let us look after you & your guests this Christmas in our beautiful brasserie.
Call us today to discuss your plans.

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www.brasserieblanc.com

Santa
Arrives at
Frosts Garden Centre
Saturday
9th November

AMPLE FREE PARKING

Santa arrives at 11.00am on
Saturday 9th November at Millets Farm...

Enjoy a FREE fun filled family day this weekend at Frosts Garden Centre at Millets Farm. Santa will open his Grotto at 11.30am for everyone to enjoy – it truly is the family experience not to be missed this Christmas!

Get your skates on for real ice skating at Millets Farm Centre...

As well as welcoming Santa you can also experience the magic of ice skating outdoors with Frosts' bigger and better REAL ice rink. Set within our beautiful outdoor plant department we promise this will be a family experience to remember. Open from this Saturday all day, every day until Sunday 5th January 2014.

To book or for further information please visit www.frostsgroup.com, bookings can also be made at the Customer Service Desk within the Garden Centre or please call 0800 954 9484.

Frosts Garden Centre - Millets Farm Centre
Kingston Road, Frilford, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire, OX13 5HB, Tel: 0800 954 9484

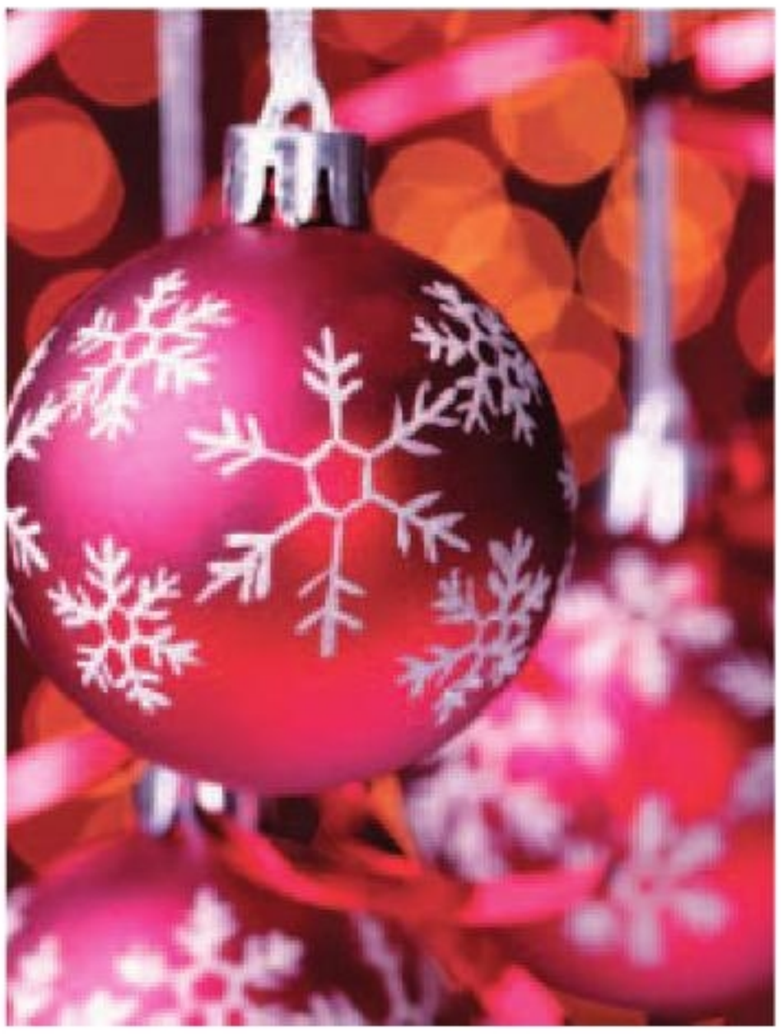
www.frostsgroup.com

Like us... frostsgc
Follow us... frostsgardens

FROSTS
...naturally

Book Now for Christmas

Choosing the perfect venue...



A COUPLE of months sounds a reasonable amount of time. Look closer at it though and it amounts to just eight weeks, and at the end of it is the biggest holiday season of the year.

So to stave off those last minute Christmas rush arounds, and desperate calls to fully booked venues its better to get the ball rolling as early as possible.

Even in October when the summer sun is occasionally popping up for a cameo appearance getting bookings made for that Christmas bash or hotel stay for any visiting relatives is vitally important to avoid disappointment.

Right then, it's deadline time, what do you do? First off, assuming you haven't booked yet start looking through these pages and try to get ideas for what you want to do and then get on the phone.

The one booking that all of us seem to get involved in is the Christmas party or the meal out. Whether it is for workmates, family, or friends the basic rules are the same, you have to try to find something that appeals to everyone.

Friends and family should be easy to organise but the guys and girls you work with can be more of a problem.

A few basic guidelines should be adhered to.

Where to go is the big question. Almost certainly, you'll want to find a venue that is near to work.

Don't forget that many if not all attending will not be driving so it needs to be convenient for taxis, buses or walking. If you're planning on staying in one venue all evening, then it should also

• *Continues on page 28*

BAR & BRASSERIE
BROWNS
FESTIVE SEASON

5-11 Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HA
Tel: 01865 511995

Christmas Day ~ three courses for £70

CHILDREN £30

Starters

Oyster Mushroom Velouté (v) white truffle oil, crème fraiche and crusty bread
Ham Hock & Pea Terrine celeriac & apple remoulade, balsamic vinaigrette, rhubarb & tomato chutney with cinnamon brioche
Gravadlax of Salmon poached free range egg, asparagus & chervil hollandaise served with granary bread & butter
Roasted Goat's Cheese (v) herb crust, tomato salsa, pomegranate and soused golden beetroot
Warm Salad of Prosciutto Wrapped Chicken with watermelon, cinnamon croutons and a honey mustard dressing

Mains

Roast Turkey rolled breast with an orange & cranberry stuffing served with pigs in blankets and a cranberry gravy
Homemade Beef Wellington seared heart of fillet, rolled with a mushroom duxelle then wrapped in pastry and baked to order and served with a Madeira jus (supplement £2.50)
Roast Breast of Spiced Barbary Duck braised pink cabbage and a red wine & blackcurrant sauce
Roast Rack of Herb & Garlic Crusted English Lamb aubergine compote and basil jus
Fresh Half of Lobster & Scallop Thermidor oven roasted vine cherry tomatoes
Chestnut, Cranberry & Brie Wellington (v)
all served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Puddings

Kumquat Stuffed Christmas Pudding brandy sauce
Salted Caramel Cheesecake with an orange & cranberry crème fraiche
Browns Christmas Eton Mess roasted plums, cinnamon, orange soaked cranberries and chestnuts
Lemon Tart topped with toasted pine nuts, served with passion fruit coulis
Black Forest Trifle steeped in cherry brandy
Selection of British Cheeses celery, grapes & crackers
Petit Fours • Coffee

All our food is prepared in a kitchen where nuts, gluten & other allergens are present & our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients - if you have a food allergy, please let us know before ordering. Full allergen information is available. An optional service charge of 12.5% will be added to all tables, which goes directly to the team who serve you. All prices include VAT at the current rate.

THE UPPER REACHES HOTEL

Christmas Parties

Friday and Saturday evenings available throughout December for Christmas Parties
£25.00 per person for a 3 course buffet and disco until midnight

Christmas Day Lunch

Take a break from all the work of preparing Christmas lunch for the family. Relax with friends and family in the Stream Restaurant and let our Chefs do all the cooking ... and cleaning!
Christmas Day Lunch Buffet £35.00 per person

STREAM BAR & RESTAURANT
Thames Street, Abingdon OX14 3JA
P: 01235 522536 F: 01235 555182
info@upperreaches-abingdon.co.uk
Www.upperreaches-abingdon.co.uk

Dare to book early

Dare you miss our Christmas celebrations at Malmaison? We are now taking bookings for our incredible Celebrations menu, served as lunch or dinner in our stunning Brasserie or seductive Private Dining Rooms from 25th November until 24th December.

WIN
Christmas presents from Malmaison

Book any table or private room up to the value of £750 for a chance to win a **complimentary bed and breakfast** stay at **Malmaison Oxford** in the new year.

OR

Book any table or private room over the value of £750 for a chance to win **Malmaison on Day Release**. Wow your guests at home with a **dinner party cooked** by a **Malmaison Senior Chef**, with cocktails supplied by the **Malmaison Oxford Bar Manager**. All waited upon by the **Brasserie Manager** and **General Manager**.*

Malmaison's
12 DARES
of Christmas

To book, call
0844 693 0659
events.oxford@malmaison.com
www.malmaison.com

*Party must be taken in January at an OX postcode – food and beverage included, our choice menu and beverages

Book Now for Christmas

Enjoy a bit of GLITZ & GLAMOUR at Oxford Thames this Christmas

Festive Lunches	from £15.95
Sunday Lunch with Santa	from £16.95
Glamour & Glitz Party Nights	from £26.95

For bookings or more information call

01865 334444

www.four-pillars.co.uk/thames

FOUR PILLARS HOTELS OXFORD THAMES

Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel
Henley Road, Sandford on Thames, Oxford, OX4 4GX

• *Continued from page 26*

be convenient for people getting home later. If the party is going to carry on to other venues afterwards, then you may need to find somewhere centrally located for more bar and club options.

And how big? You'll need a room that can fit in everyone comfortably. Cram them all into a place that's too small and you'll no doubt start to see people leave half-way through the evening. On the other hand, a place too big will see the group start to separate into clicky groups.

Try to check out the venue on a busy weekend night to see how it feels with different groups of people sharing the place.

Food can be a tricky call to make. Some will try anything, some are more set in their ways and probably don't want their first experience of Sushi to be at the Xmas bash. Most restaurants, bars, and pubs have a range of meals outside their speciality, especially at Christmas so get copies of the menus faxed or emailed to you

• *Continues on page 30*

THE OXFORD HOTEL
OXFORD

SHAKING THINGS UP THIS FESTIVE SEASON

An exciting mix of Christmas and New Year packages awaits you.

From a pre-Christmas Cocktail Party, office party or a traditional dinner with friends and family we'll provide you with everything you need, leaving plenty of time to relax and enjoy yourselves.

PRICES FROM **£29.95** PER GUEST
incl. 3-Course Festive Menu, Disco and Wine

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- New Year's Eve gala dinner dance

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Terms & Conditions Apply

PUMA HOTELS COLLECTION

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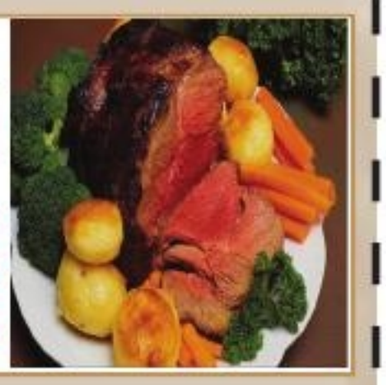
Book Now for Christmas

Oxfordshire Inn Hotel Heathfield

Heathfield Village
Bletchingdon
Oxford OX5 3DX

Oxfordshire Inn

Tel: 01869 351444



SUNDAY CARVERY DEALS!

£7.95 one course
£10.95 two courses
£13.95 three courses

• Tel: 01869 351444 • Fax: 01869 351555
• Reservations: staff@oxfordshireinn.co.uk
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We look forward to seeing you very soon!
The Oxfordshire Inn Hotel, Oxford is located just four miles from Oxford city centre, one minute from the main A34 and just three miles from Junction 9 of the M40.

Bignell Park

Hotel & Oaks Restaurant

CHRISTMAS PARTY
LUNCHES £22.50pp

CHRISTMAS PARTY
DINNER MENU £28.00pp

CHRISTMAS DAY
LUNCH £75.00pp

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Tel: **01869 326550** Email: **enq@bignellparkhotel.co.uk**

Traditional Christmas Day Carvery Lunch

This year, spoil yourself and enjoy a stress-free Christmas Day with our delicious three course carvery lunches,

£42.50 per adult
£19.00 per child (5-11yr)
Children 4 and under eat free

£10 per person non-refundable deposit required at the time of booking.

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FOUR PILLARS HOTELS
OXFORD ABINGDON

Oxford Abingdon Four Pillars Hotel
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Bablock Hythe, Northmoor, Oxford

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Senior Citizens every Thursday (special menu)

Roasts every Sunday
2 courses £9.75 3 courses £11.75
We only use freshly sourced produce. Home made Yorkshire puddings and real gravy! Booking advisable.

FULL CHRISTMAS MENU

offering Christmas Fayre
from turkey sandwiches to
a 3 course meal!

• *Continued from page 28*

and get them approved early on by those attending.

And most importantly - price. Whether you're in charge of the money or just booking it for everyone, it's a fair bet that you'll have a set budget for the party. Not everyone has the same amount of money to spend so you will need to find a venue that provides value for money, and arrange natural breaks in the evening so anyone who has spent enough doesn't feel they look bad by leaving with everyone else still there.

You can be sure that aamong the venues in this feature you will find the perfect one to make your celebrations go off with a bang.

Oxfordshire Inn Hotel Heathfield

Heathfield Village
Bletchingdon
Oxford OX5 3DX

Set in and surrounded by beautiful Oxford and Cotswold countryside, the Oxfordshire Inn Hotel is an ideal location for Oxford itself and to explore the surrounding Oxford countryside.

CHRISTMAS AT THE OXFORDSHIRE INN HOTEL
Now taking Christmas Party Bookings

Christmas Party Lunch: Two Course Lunch £9.95, Three Course Lunch - £12.95

Christmas Party Dinner - £19.95, Christmas Day Lunch - £55.95

To book or for more information on our parties please call 01869 351444

Sunday Carvery at The Oxfordshire Inn

1 Course £7.95 • 2 x Courses £10.95 • 3 x Courses £13.95

Service from 12noon till 3pm

To book a table or for further details please phone **01869 351444**
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We understand that you and your partner envisage a truly perfect and individual day, whether you are looking to celebrate your wedding with a lavish party or are thinking of a more intimate affair.

We can offer you a range of wedding options including menus, accommodation and venue to make your special day truly flexible.

For more information or to discuss your plans with a wedding co-ordinator please call us to book an appointment.

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7th November
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5th December
Tina T tribute to Tina Turner +
The Diva's of Soul

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Telephone: 01869 351444 Fax: 01869 351 555
Reservations: staff@oxfordshireinn.co.uk

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Book Now for Christmas

THE VICTORIA ARMS

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Telephone: +44 (1865) 241382
Email: victoriaarms@wadworth.co.uk
Website: www.victoriaarms.co.uk

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Available 21st November - 11th January

Come and join us for your Christmas celebrations

STARTERS

Ham hock terrine with rustic bread & piccalilli

Chilli, sweet potato & butternut squash soup with rustic bread (v)

Mushroom, pea & mozzarella risotto cake with a tomato relish (v)

Beetroot gravadlax with roasted beetroot, sour cream, dill pollen & mustard

MAINS

Roasted British turkey breast with bacon wrapped sausages, stuffing & a rich gravy

Smoked haddock fillet on wilted spinach with a poached egg & glazed with a cheese & chervil sauce

Slow braised beef cheek with roasted shallot, chestnut mushroom, crispy pancetta & garlic crouton & creamy mash

Char-grilled swordfish with lemon & caper butter with buttered new potatoes & a green salad

Goat's cheese Wellington with cashew nuts & butternut squash wrapped in puff pastry with a courgette Provençale (v)

Main courses are served with crispy roast potatoes or buttered new potatoes & a selection of seasonal winter vegetables

PUDDINGS

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Chocolate fudge brownie with pistachio ice cream & berry compote

Citrus tart with honey crème fraîche

Selection of great British cheeses with biscuits, celery, grapes & chutney

Three Courses £18.95 • Two Courses £14.95

WELCOME TO WADWORTHSHIRE

CHRISTMAS DAY

FOUR COURSE MEAL

Let us do the hard work for you this Christmas Day

STARTERS

Artichoke, pea & mint soup with crème fraîche & crispy croutons & rustic bread (v)

Rabbit & pistachio nut terrine with rocket, crostini & spiced orange chutney

Rillette of salmon with a herb salad & garlic crostini

Honey baked figs & Manchego cheese rocket salad with a honey balsamic dressing (v)

Cullen skink - smoked haddock & potato soup with rustic bread

MAINS

Roasted British turkey with bacon wrapped sausages, stuffing, cranberries & a rich gravy

Gilthead bream on a chorizo, saffron & sun-blushed tomato risotto

Grilled sirloin steak on the bone with a garlic buttered crevette, parsnip crisps & béarnaise sauce

Baked salmon with a pine nut & watercress crust with a prawn sauce

Winter vegetable dauphinoise with Cropwell Bishop Stilton crust, caramelised shallots & port jus (v)

Main courses are served with crispy roast potatoes or buttered new potatoes & a selection of seasonal winter vegetables

PUDDINGS

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Mango, lime & passion fruit mousse with a ginger shortbread

Chocolate truffle torte with a winter berry sauce

Plum and frangipane tart with vanilla cream

Selection of great British cheeses with biscuits, celery, grapes & chutney

Four courses (with sorbet) £49.95

Book Now for Christmas

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Christmas Party Package

£44 per person

Three Course Hot Buffet
Professional Disco and DJ*
Three hours cruising at times to suit you
(*Free for parties of 20 or more. Our background music system is available for smaller parties)

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- ☆ Christmas carvery
- ☆ Lucky dip gift for all kids
- ☆ Promotional drinks

Lunch from £6.95 pp*
Evening from £13.50 pp*

* Weekend lunch price £7.95, Fri-Sat evening £14.50
Promotional discounts are not valid during December period

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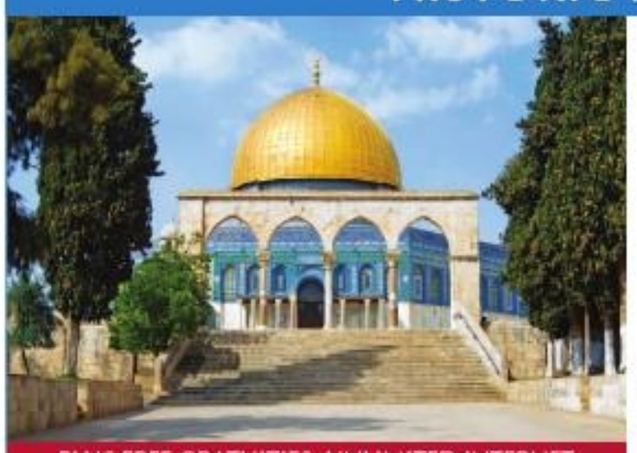

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Penthouse Suite From	£3,949 per guest
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☾ Overnight stay in port. ☾☾ Two overnight stays in port.

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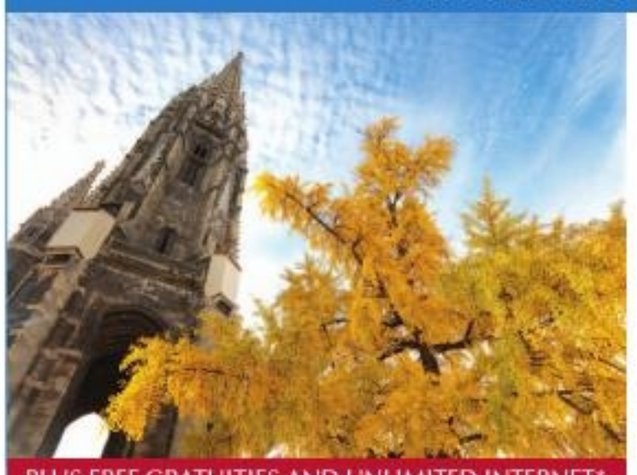
CATHEDRALS & CROWNS



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Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
5				1			3	
	2	1			8	7		
			2				7	3
		3				1		
9	6				5			
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Superficially emotional (11)
9 Eccentric (3)
10 Instruction (9)
11 Brazilian dance (5)
13 Oozing (7)
14 Whimsical (6)
16 Struggle (6)
18 Tolerates (7)
19 Principle (5)
20 Salt of carbonic acid (9)
21 Sickly pale (3)
22 Searchers for oil or gold (11)

Quick Clues Down

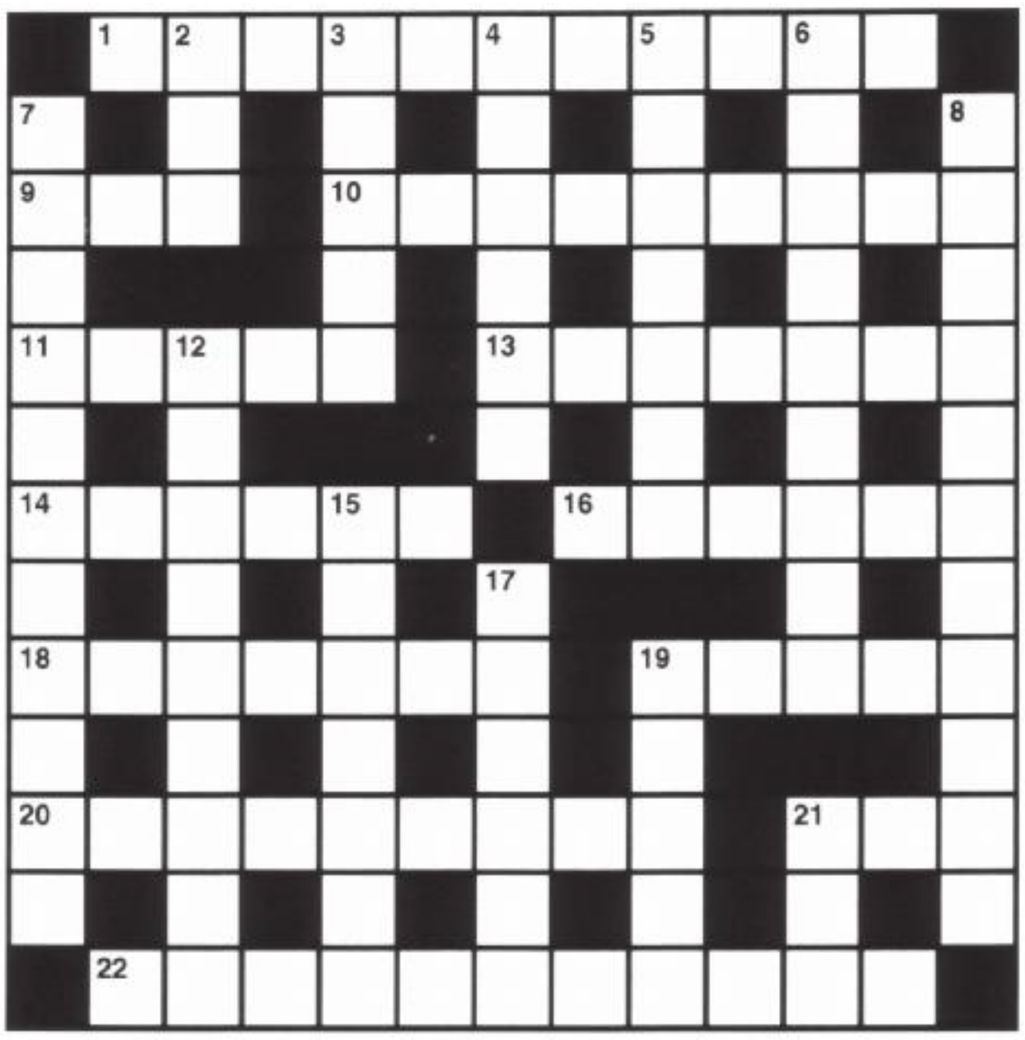
2 Terminate (3)
3 Greek letter (5)
4 Type of dessert (6)
5 Closest (7)
6 Violent motion (9)
7 Effect (11)
8 Exciting curiosity (11)
12 Wanderer (9)
15 Decreases in width (7)
17 Get free (6)
19 Robbery (5)
21 Conflict (3

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Do such people never take a quick look? (4-7)
9 It should look well ahead (3)
10 Shrimps? She'll try to catch her own (9)
11 Places where the collection is brought back (5)
13 The chief one in charge is old-fashioned (7)
14 They just don't have winning ways (6)
16 Struggle to bring the rest round about four (6)
18 Hesitate to speak? (7)
19 If such a cap fits, the dunce should wear it (5)
20 In debt - finished, even? (9)
21 How to find the person (3)
22 This slyness has up-to-date good looks (11)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 You think it's in but it's not (3)
3 They are simply breathtaking (5)
4 Might it get ahead of the polar explorer? (6)
5 Pluto's pet is a real hag (7)
6 No plait, ie the result of a close shave (9)
7 Card game the French prevent in small US town (7,4)
8 Smart little Kenneth gets the company to work (on egg production?) (7,4)
12 It's made by willing people (9)
15 Change can make me older (7)
17 They sound good men in the kitchen (6)
19 A big shot in the church? (5)
21 Is no longer (3)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	9	1	6	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7	6
2	7	6	3	5	4	8	1	9
7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4
6	5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	2

6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	8	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	3
5	2	3	1	8	4	9	7	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	1
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9
7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5	2

6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	2	6
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	2	3	5	1	6	4	8
3	8	1	4	6	7	2	9	5
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	6	9	4	5	8	7	2

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Obsolescent 9 Hub 10 Diligence 11 River 13 Scalene 14 Handle16 Lessee 18 Oarsman 19 Visit 20 Nobleness 21 Pea 22 Gentlemanly
Down: 2 Bob 3 Order 4 Enlist 5 Cognate 6 Nonsenses 7 Church-going 8 Deferential 12 Venerable 15 Lambent 17 Sneeze 19 Vesta 21 Pal

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Springboard 9 Run 10 Spare time 11 Image 3 Nearest 14 Gusset 16 Remain 18 Harpist 19 Avert 20 Militates 21 Too 22 Paper-hanger
Down: 2 Pan 3 Issue 4 Grains 5 Operate 6 Reiterate 7 Crying shame 8 Destination 12 Australia 15 Epistle 17 Stitch 19 Arson 21 Tie

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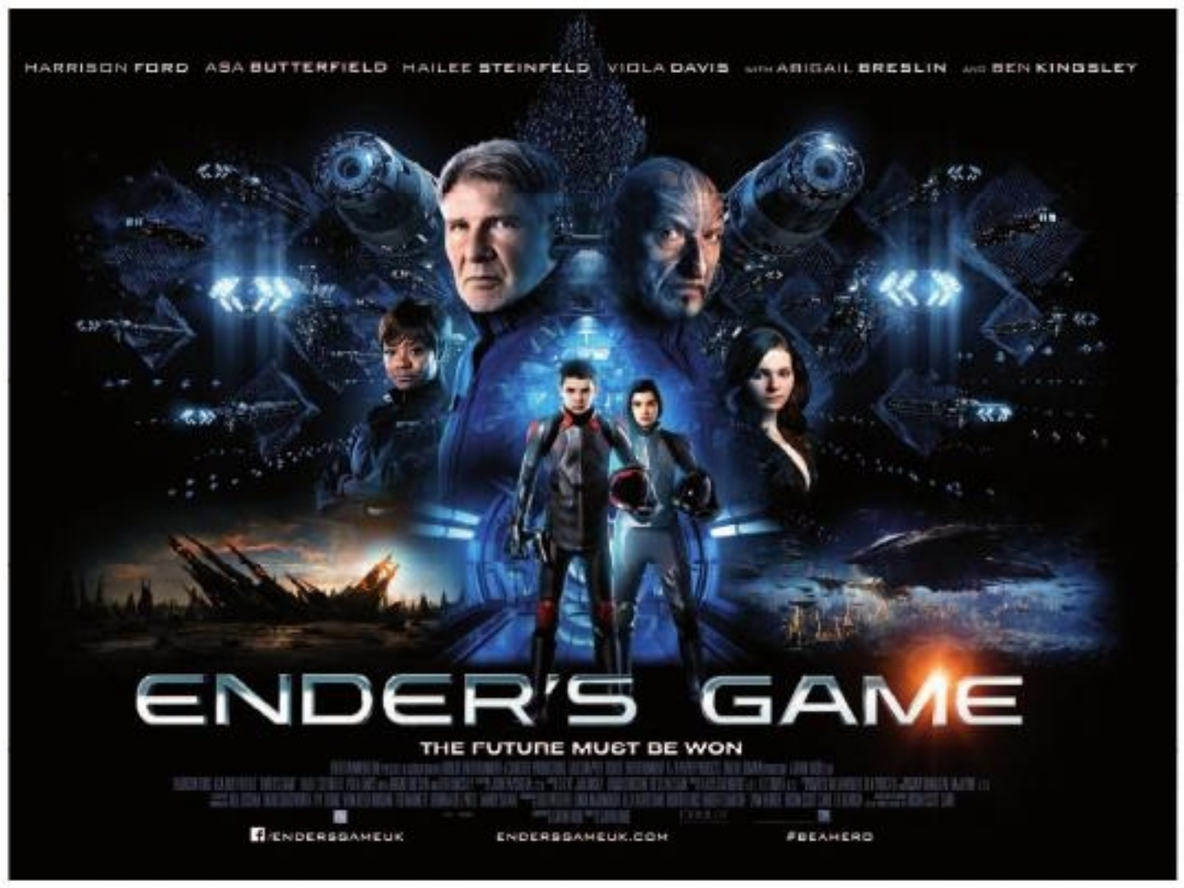
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AUTOWEEKLY

An impressive first effort

REVIEW: KIA PRO_CEE'D GT

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

KOREAN car maker Kia has finally joined the hot-hatch party with the pro_cee'd GT.

It certainly looks the part, thanks to sporty, individual styling and steeply raked coupe roofline. Other identifying features include: new front grille and lamp clusters, deeper bumpers, jewel-like four-point LED daytime running lights, new fog lights, dual-exhaust pipes, larger 18-inch alloy wheels, eye-catching red brake calipers and a range of special paint finishes.

Powered by a new version of Kia's 1.6-litre GDi (Gasoline Direct Injection) engine and equipped with a twin-scroll turbocharger, results in 201bhp and 265 Nm of torque. Claimed fuel consumption and emissions are 38.2 mpg and 171g/km CO2.

On the road the blown petrol motor offers good drivability and flexibility, but is also capable of packing quite a punch when required: 0-62 takes 7.4 seconds, with a top speed of 143 mph.

Yet this car isn't harsh or a handful to control either,

However, when the right road presents itself the GT is able to entertain. Throw it through a series of twisty bends and the pro_cee'd GT feels fluid, controlled and planted. Admittedly it's not an ultra responsive thrill-ride like the Vauxhall VXR or Focus ST. The steering might not be brimming with feedback, but does feel neutral and linear – allowing quick changes of direction and accurate placement of the car on the road.

Considering the look of the car, front and rear interior space is generous. Driving position is good, too. Annoyingly though, a built-up foot rest means taller drivers are unable to fully extend their left leg. Other gripes include a steering wheel rather cluttered with buttons and a small back window, which restricts rear vision, although front and rear parking sensors are standard.

Along with Bluetooth, iPod Connectivity and rear privacy glass, higher spec GT Tech cars get an engine start/stop button, seven-inch touchscreen with satellite navigation, reversing camera, heated steering wheel and xenon adaptive headlights. Prices start at £19,995 rising to £22,495.

Verdict:

The pro_cee'd GT is a highly impressive first hot-hatch offering from Kia. It's not got the fireworks of more extreme models from Ford and Vauxhall; instead it is more likethe of Volkwagen's Golf GTI: delivering enough performance to entertain, coupled with good refinement and comfort to ensure hassle free, daily usability.

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• The new Kia pro_cee'd GT

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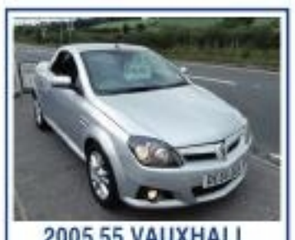

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2007 07	Renault Megane Privilege VVT 1.6, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 49700 Miles	£4,795
2007 56	Renault MeganeDynamique VVT 1.6, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 57880 Miles	£4,495
2006 06	Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique VVT Petrol 5-Speed Manual 76600 Miles	£3,295
2003 03	Renault KangooAuthentiquedCi 1.5 Wheelchair Ramp Turbo Diesel 5-Speed Manual 65700 Miles	£2,995
2004 04	Renault Scenic Privilege 16v 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 71650 Miles	£2,795
2005 55	Renault MeganeDynamiquedCi 1.9 4DR, Turbo Diesel 6-Speed Manual 102355 Miles	£2,695
2003 53	Renault Clio Dynamique Billabong 1.4 16v 3dr, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 60,310 miles	£2,495
2003 03	Renault Megane Scenic Expression 16v 1.6 petrol 5-speed manual 61420 miles	£2,495
1998 R	Renault Laguna 2.0RT Estate Nice Car Petrol 5-Speed Manual 112791 Miles	£895

SKODA

2002 02	Skoda Superb Comfort V6 TDi 2.5 FINANCE AVAILABLE Turbo Diesel 6-Speed Man 84924 Miles	£2,995

SUBARU

2004 04	Subaru Forester 2.0 X All Weather Petrol 5-Speed Manual 66170 Miles	£3,795

TOYOTA

2004 04	Toyota Landcruiser Lc3 8-Seats 3.0 D-4d Turbo Diesel 5-Speed Manual 64787 Miles	£10,495
2007 G	Toyota RAV-4 XT3 D-4D 2.2 Diesel 6-Speed Manual 95050 Miles	£7,295
2003 03	Toyota RAV-4 Gx VVT-I Petrol 5-Speed Manual 72244 Miles	£4,695
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2002 02	Toyota Corolla Verso T3 vvti 1.8 5 speed manual petrol 90,690 miles	£2,495
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1999 T	Toyota Yaris 1.0 GS 3dr Petrol 5-Speed Manual 86425 Miles	£1,795

VAUXHALL

2006 06	Vauxhall Zafira Design CDTi 8v Seven Seats, Turbo Diesel Automatic 70318 Miles	£5,295
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2003 03	Vauxhall Astra Active 8v 5dr 1.6 ltr Exceptional Petrol 5-Speed Manual 72500 Miles	£2,295
2002 51	Vauxhall Vectra LS 16v 5dr 1.8, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 90345 Miles	£995
1999 V	Vauxhall Corsa GLS 12v 3dr 1.0 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 92200 Miles	£895

VOLKSWAGEN

2008 58	Volkswagen Passat BluemotionTDi 2.0 Turbo Diesel 5-Speed Manual	£6,995
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11 61 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI 95PS ZETEC S DIESEL, 3dr, panther black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, r/CD, alloys, a/c, HFS, ABS, ESP, c/l, 5 a/b, PAS, B'tooth, FSH, 1 owner from new, low miles, £20 RFL per year,

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11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & h'lamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, park sensors,

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08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles

£6,995

10 10 C MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5 spd, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 a/b, alloys, ABS, ESP, parking sensors, front/rear privacy glass, one owner, FSH,

£7,995

10 60 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/gry, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, low mileage, one local owner from new, FSH, £30RFL per year, 23,947 miles

£6,995

09 09 VOLVO V70 SE 2.0 DIESEL AUTOMATIC ESTATE, grey met/ full leather trim, heated seats, climate & cruise control, e/w & folding mirrors, r/CD, rear park sensors, roof rails, ABS,

£9,995

10 10 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, rear park sensors, RFL £30 per year, one owner, FSH, low mileage 16,151 miles

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113 63 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, sunrise/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, immobiliser, r/CD, 2 airbags, e/w, remote locking, pre-registered, delivery mileage only 10, £30R FL per year

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13 62 FOCUS NEW MODEL 1.0 100 PS PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, 17" alloys, a/c, B'tooth USB, PAS, privacy glass, ABS, ESP, HFS, fr fogs, 6 a/b, rear park sensors, balance of manufacturer's warranty, one local owner, low mileage, £20 RFL per year, 8,029 miles

NEW PRICE £18,570 NOW £12,595

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/ grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles

£8,995

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/ grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control,

£9,991

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles

£14,995

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles

£4,995

FIESTA

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH. £9,591

2011 FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 PETROL AUTOMATIC, 5dr, frozen white/grey, e/w & m, r/CD, PAS, c/l, a/c, Bluetooth, City pack, ABS, ESP, heated screen, 5 airbags, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturer's warranty, very low mileage 7,159, FSH, one local owner. £8,995

11 61 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI 95PS ZETEC S DIESEL, 3dr, panther black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, r/CD, alloys, a/c, HFS, ABS, ESP, c/l, 5 airbags, PAS, Blue tooth, FSH, one owner from new, low mileage, £20 RFL per year, 12,200 miles. £9,995

FUSION

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles £4,995

C MAX S MAX B MAX

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 3,000 miles, RFL £30 per year £15,995

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated screen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles £8,995

10 10 C MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5 spd, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, parking sensors, front & rear privacy glass, one owner, FSH, very low mileage 12,012 miles £7,995

KA

10 60 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, climate con, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, front fogs, low mileage, 2 owners from new, 26,725 miles, FSH £7,295

13 63 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, sunrise/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, immobiliser, r/CD, 2 airbags, e/w, remote locking, pre-registered, delivery mileage only 10 miles, £30R FL per year £8,495

10 60 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/gry, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, low mileage, one local owner from new, FSH, £30RFL per year, 23,947 ..... £5,995

10 10 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, rear park sensors, RFL £30 per year, one owner, FSH, low mileage 16,151 miles. £6,995

07 07 KA 1.3 ZETEC CLIMATE, petrol, 3dr, grey met/grey, 5 speed, Radio CD, Air Con, Heated front screen, Remote central locking, Electric windows and mirrors, Power steering, Alloys, 1 Airbag, ABS, one owner, low mileage for age 22,690 miles,. £3,995

KUGA

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control,

MONDEO

10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, park sensors,service, one owner from new, 35,500 miles £9,495

FOCUS

13 62 FOCUS NEW MODEL 1.0 100 PS PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, 17" alloys, a/c, Bluetooth USB, PAS, privacy glass, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, rear park sensors, balance of manufacturer's warranty, one local owner, low mileage, £20 RFL per year, 8,029 miles £12,595

12 62 FOCUS NEW MODEL 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, e/w&m, r/CD, 17" alloys, air con, Bluetooth USB, PAS, privacy glass, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, BALANCE OF MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY, one local owner, low mileage 5,000 miles, £20 RFL per year. £11,995

10 10 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM, 5dr, chilli met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, a/c, HFS, auto h'lights & wipers, PAS, power start button, key less entry, DAB r/CD, rear park sensors, cruise, heated seats, 6 airbags, ABS, one owner, FSH, low mileage 23,758 ..... £8,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, park sensors, one owner, FSH, 28,236 ..... £8,495

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655 ..... £8,995

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles. £6,995

OTHER MAKES

09 09 VOLVO V70 SE 2.0 DIESEL AUTO ESTATE, grey met/ full leather trim, heated seats, climate & cruise, e/w & folding mirrors, r/CD, rear park sensors, roof rails, ABS, front fogs, s/r, PAS, alloys, 8 a/b, 2 owners from new, FSH, 73,461 miles. £9,995

11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White with gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 speed, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, Electric windows & mirrors, Radio CD, Power steering, Air Con, 2 Airbags, ABS, 39968, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, SERVICE HISTORY.. £7,995

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03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH £3,995

02 52 FIESTA 1.3 PETROL LX, 5dr, neptune met, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r and 6 CD player, PAS, HFS, 2 airbags, service history, 76,141 miles £2,595

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Fuel consumption figures for the CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 - 58.9 (5.0 - 4.8), Extra Urban 62.8 - 65.7 (4.5 - 4.3), Combined 60.1 - 62.8 (4.7 - 4.5). CO_2 emissions: 124 - 119g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: CR-V 1.6 I-DTEC SR Manual in optional Urban Titanium Metallic at £27,380 On The Road. Terms and Conditions: New retail CR-V 1.6 I-DTEC registered between 19 October 2013 to 31 December 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £239 per month example shown based on CR-V 1.6 I-DTEC S in Urban Titanium Metallic at £23,300 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £5,849.75 (25%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,846.25, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Complimentary Servicing:** 5 years' servicing or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of 5 manufacturer's scheduled services.

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Amount of Credit	£6,233
Fees	£145
GMFV	£3,195
Total Amount Payable	£7,681.36
Duration Of Agreement	37 Months
Mileage	6,000
Representative APR	7.0% APR

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36 Monthly Payments	£154.76
Cash Price	£9,069
Deposit	£154
Amount of Credit	£8,915
Fees	£145
GMFV	£4,545
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Models shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Written details available on request. Guarantees and indemnities maybe required. Excess mileage charges may apply.

WINTER SERVICE & CHECK

Snow, fog, ice and rain are just a few of the dangers Winter can spring upon the motorist and to avoid getting caught out there is essential preparation to be done.

Most road safety organisations advise having your car serviced before Winter. Julians are able to help you with this and are offering a tailored interim Winter service including an oil and filter change, check wiper blades, tyres, lights, coolant and battery condition, in other words all the Winter maintenance essentials.

Prices from

£89.00

Oil & Filter change

The life of your engine depends on the oil you put in it. The engine oil minimises friction of the moving metal parts and helps dissipate the heat generated. It is essential to change your oil on a regular basis. We will use quality semi synthetic oil.

Check wiper blades

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, during Winter 'the biggest single danger is being unable to see properly' so visibility is key. Worn or split wiper blades may cause them to leave smears and greasy marks on the windscreen and affect visibility, so to avoid these hazards we will replace your front wiper blades where applicable.

Check battery condition

During the Winter flat batteries are consistently the number one reason for breakdown, so during our Winter Service, we check it out, clean the terminals and top up the fluids to ensure it is ready for the perils of Winter.

Check the condition & pressures of tyres

The tread depth, tyre condition and pressure of your tyres are essential items that should be checked as is vitally important that your tyres grip the road properly to reduce the risk of skidding and aquaplaning in Wintery conditions. Julians fully endorse the guidelines set by the Tyre Industry Council, which state that tyres should be considered for changing when the tread depth remaining reaches approximately 3mm, at which depth they are 78% worn.

Check operation & condition of lights

Lights should be checked to ensure they are working properly. It is important to make sure lights are free from dirt; this includes your headlights, fog lights and indicators, so we will thoroughly check the operation and condition of your lights to ensure they are working efficiently

Check & top up all under bonnet fluid levels

We check all under bonnet fluids levels.

Check and top up brake, clutch and washer fluid

Check antifreeze content and advise*

Visual Safety Check

As part of our Duty of Care to you, we will carry out a visual safety check of your vehicle, we will inform you of the condition of your vehicle and what remedial work, if any, need to be done and on what timescale.

Careful driving and a well prepared vehicle should make Winter a safer experience for you and your family.

* Antifreeze extra if required

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2004	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6. 7 SEATS. A/C TAX 130,000 BLACK	£1,495
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2008	MV AUGUSTA F4 1000 10,000	£7,995
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2004	AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S-LINE DSG 3 DR GREAT SPEC 140,000 BLACK	£3,995
2005	MG ZS 2.0 TDI. L/H DRIVE. NEW MOT & TAX ALLOYS, A/C 74,000 GREY	SOLD
2006	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 AUTO 5DR, CD, A/C, FSH 79,000 GREY	£3,795
2002	AUDI A4 ESTATE 3.0 QUATTRO SPORT. GREAT SPEC. 125,000 GREEN	£2,995
2002	AUDI A2 1.6 CD, E/W, E/M, MANUAL, 5 DR. 76,000 BLACK.	£3,495
2007	VX ZAFIRA 1.6 E/W, TOW BAR, PRIVACY GLASS, CD, A/C. 61,000 GREY	£4,995
2007	VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 16V COUPE 1.4. CHEAP INSURANCE, A/C, ALLOYS. 84,000 BLUE	£4,295
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2005	FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI GHIA. A/C, CD, E/W, E/M 112,000 GREY	£2,995
2003	FORD STREET KA. CONVERTIBLE. A/C. E/W. CD PLAYER. 57,000. RED	£2,795
2004	FORD FOCUS C-MAX. 1.8. LONG MOT & TAX 95,000 BLUE	SOLD
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2001	MERCEDES C200 KOMPRESSOR 2.0, E/W, MoT & Tax	£2,495
2004	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 PETROL, 7 seats MoT & Tax PAS, ac, e/w.	£2,495
2004	DAEWOO MATIZ, MoT & Tax	£2,295
2004	FORD MONDEO 2.0 DIESEL, new MoT & Tax, e/w, PAS, a/c, c/l.	£1,995
2000	AUDI A6 2.4 AUTOMATIC, FSH, MoT, E/W PAS	£1,795
2002	CHRYSLER GRAND VOYAGER 2.4 PETROL, 7 Seats, E/W, PAS, A/C, roof rack	£1,699
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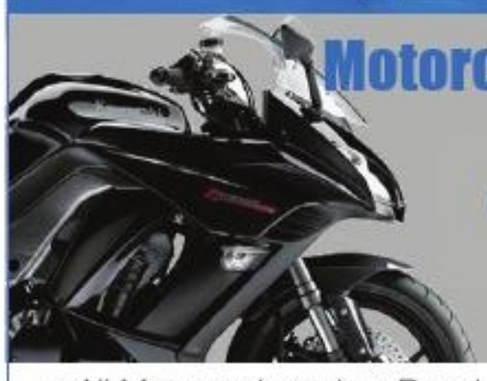

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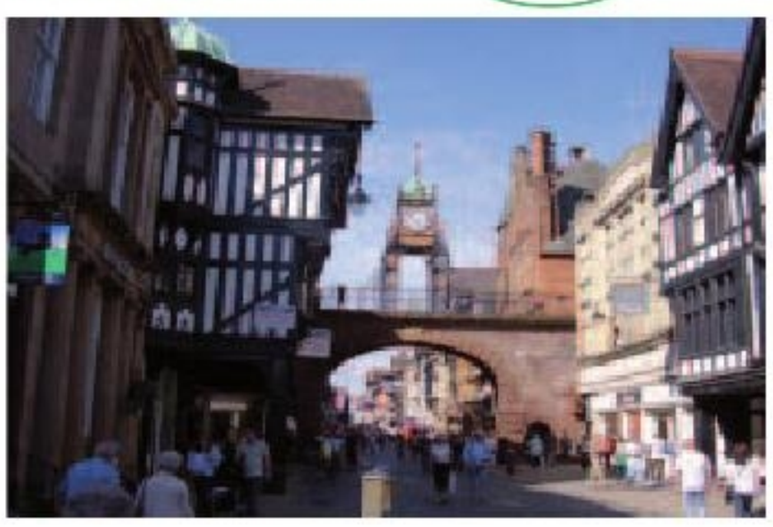

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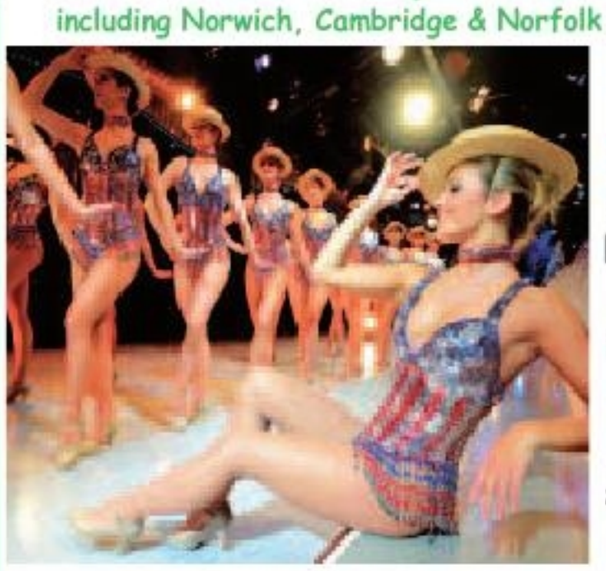

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Constable edges closer to century of U's goals

• *James Constable could become only the second player in Oxford United's history to reach 100 goals if he nets this weekend (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

JAMES Constable could net his 100th goal for Oxford United this Saturday when the U's welcome Bristol Rovers to the Kassam Stadium.

The 29-year-old scored his fifth goal of the season in United's 2-0 win over AFC Wimbledon last weekend, a victory that saw Chris Wilder's men take over at the top of League Two on goal difference.

If Beano nets on Saturday he will be only seven goals behind Graham Atkinson, United's all time top scorer.

In fact, he could have reached the landmark last weekend but he blazed over the bar after good work from Deane Smalley and allowed his strike partner to score United's second from the penalty spot on 82 minutes.

"If I had scored the one before that it would have been nice to get the penalty and try and get a hat-trick," Constable told the club.

"But Deano has had a hard time, he has been out and has worked hard to get himself back in and deserved the goal."

He added: "It was vitally important we got the win.

"We worked on it all week and we needed to get back to winning ways after a couple of draws and it was important we went out there and performed like we did."

However, United were made to work hard for the win with Jake Wright and Michael Raynes making important blocks to earn a fourth clean sheet in a row.

Wilder told the club: "That's just their (Wright and Raynes') natural attitude and how they want to play the game.

"They want a clean sheet and they want to secure three points.

"We were under undue pressure that we didn't really need to be under.

"I don't want to burst the bubble for everybody but we will have a look at that and we need to rectify it. As soon as the second goal went in we were in a really comfortable position and we should have seen the game out a bit better."

Wantage and Nomads going head-to-head

WANTAGE Town and Oxford City Nomads will vie for a chance to top the Hellenic Premier Division as the two sides meet at Marsh Lane tomorrow evening.

The Alfredians are currently second in the table and victory over Chris Ackling's side would see them open up a two point lead over Reading Town who do not play this weekend.

However, Nomads could also go top themselves as a win over Wantage would see them overtake Reading on goal difference and they would stay there if Ardley lose at Wootton Bassett Town on Saturday.

During midweek Ackling's men suffered their sixth defeat of the season with a 3-2 loss at third from bottom Newbury while Wantage beat Bracknell 3-1 at Alfredian Park.

Elsewhere, Abingdon Town were beaten for the 13th time this season as Cheltenham Saracens scored three without reply while Kidlington and Thame United played out a 1-1 draw.

This weekend Town, who are second from bottom, travel to 17th placed Shrivenham in what could be an important game as seven points already separate the two clubs.

Kidlington travel to Bracknell Town while Thame visit Holyport.

Smith hopes to end season on high note

BRADLEY Smith is looking to end his rookie MotoGP season on a high next Sunday after another impressive performance last weekend.

The 22-year-old from Oxford finished eighth at the Japanese Grand Prix after starting from 13th on the grid.

It was Smith's sixth top 10 finish in the last seven races and at one point the Tech3 rider was in fifth place keeping his teammate Cal Crutchlow at bay until lap nine.

He said: "I'm pleased with the eighth position.

"I knew it would be a tricky race starting from 13th but fortunately I made a good start and I was trying to push at my maximum right from the off.

"I'm pleased with the progress we have made during the season and I'm just looking forward to making a good race in Valencia to end the Championship on a high."

Smith has all but secured 10th place in the championship as he leads Aleix Espargaro by 19 points with one race to go.

• *Jamie Cook lets fly during City's defeat at Dover (Picture by Mike Allen)*

City are outclassed by Dover

OXFORD City fell at the final hurdle of FA Cup qualifying last Saturday with a comprehensive 3-0 defeat to Skrill South side Dover.

Mike Ford's men were outplayed for much of the first half down on the south-east coast, while the defeat ended a four match unbeaten run in all competitions.

City went behind on 20 minutes when Nathan Elder outjumped keeper Victor Francoz to head home while Barry Cogan's free-kick made it two before the break.

The introduction of Steve Basham and Mike Symons in the second half helped to improve City but Sean Raggett tapped home a third on 80 minutes to deny Ford's men a place in the first round.

City, who are second from bottom in the Skrill North, return to league action with a trip to mid-table Harrogate Town this Saturday.

Sport Bites

Hawks lose

OXFORD Hawks Hockey Club suffered a second successive defeat last weekend as they were beaten 4-3 by Oxford University Men's 1s.

The defeat leaves Hawks ninth in Premier Division 1 with four points from four games.

Next up for Hawks is Sutton Valance Mens 1s this Saturday.

Shining Stars

TWO goals from Josh Oliver helped Oxford City Stars to a 5-2 win over the Swindon Wildcats last Sunday in the National Ice Hockey League South 2 domestic cup.

Oxford are back to league action this weekend as they face Invicta Mustangs on Sunday.

A win would be there sixth straight victory in the league this season.

Runner-up

CHIPPING Norton based racing driver Alice Powell narrowly missed out on the F3 Cup title at Snetterton last weekend.

The 20-year-old finished runner-up to eventual winner Alex Craven despite winning five of the first eight races and leading the championship for the majority of the season.

Craven won the title by 11 points.

Stapley is the man as Hawks edge out Donny

ROBBIE Stapley's second half try was enough to earn Henley Hawks a thrilling 11-10 win over SSE National League 1 leaders Doncaster last Saturday.

The battling win saw Hawks go four games unbeaten, ending Doncaster's winning start to the season.

Hawks are currently eighth in the table with 23 points and face Blaydon on Saturday.

In the SSE National League 2 South, Chinnor ended their three match winless run with a 29-27 victory over Bishops Stortford.

William Millett's 74th minute penalty earned an injury ravaged Chinnor their fifth victory of the season.

Elsewhere, Oxford Harlequins continued their winning streak in South West 1 East with a 39-10 victory against Buckingham.

Quins are six points clear at the top of table and are hoping to make it nine wins in a row when they face Cheltenham this weekend.

DIDCOT Guardian Sport

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More Sport inside: Motorsport: Smith hopes to end season on high note | Ice Hockey: Shining Stars

MILLS FIRES DIDCOT TO HOME WIN

First victory in six for the Railwaymen

ASSISTANT manager Paul Davis says Didcot Town could be turning a corner after they ended a six-match winless run with a 1-0 victory at home to Fleet Town last weekend.

The win saw Diddy move off the bottom of the Division One South and West table and keep their first clean sheet since their 2-0 win over Yate Town on September 7.

John Mills scored the only goal of the game on 65 minutes after latching on to debutant Kameron Abbassi's through ball before rounding Ryan Price in the Fleet goal and firing into an empty net.

However, the Railwaymen survived a late scare as Kieran Beesley did well to save Jordan Carter's deflected effort with two minutes remaining.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"I said to the boys in the dressing room that the deflection with two minutes ago would have gone in two weeks ago so maybe we're turning a corner, maybe the luck is with us and we've moved off the bottom of the table as well," Davis said.

"In training on Thursday night I tried to do something a little bit different, to just have a bit of fun and forget what has gone by.

"I've been here and the players have been here but it just felt like a new era.

"I turned up in a shirt and tie and told the board and committee that everything from now on has got to be positive otherwise it spills over on to the pitch.

"Before the game I told the players that everything we do is positive, let's do what we like and when the game starts lets be serious and get at them and just generally be positive in our play and I think that showed."

Davis was also full of praise for new signing Abbassi, who joined from Division One Central side Marlow.

"He was a different class not only with the ball but off it," Davis said. "Everything we did evolved around him and I thought he was superb."

Didcot are still looking for a permanent manager and Davis is being considered for the role.

He said: "I don't want to dwell on it too much because we have got a massive game this weekend at Taunton. We've just got to keep going and I don't really want to think about me but I'd love to lead these players."

Didcot Town	1
Fleet Town	0

• *John Mills scored the only goal of the game as Didcot beat Fleet (Picture by Roger Neal)*

Wilder's men go top after Constable and Smalley down Dons

GOALS from James Constable and Deane Smalley earned Oxford United a 2-0 win over AFC Wimbledon last Saturday, sending the U's top of League Two.

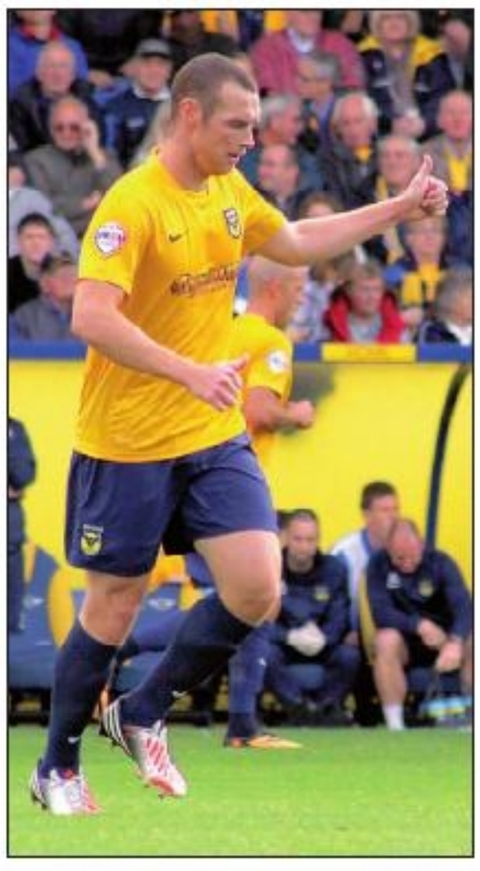
United extended their unbeaten record and run of clean sheets to four games and overtook Rochdale as league leaders on goal difference.

This Saturday Chris Wilder's men face Bristol Rovers at home where Constable could write his name in to club history.

See inside sport for full story.

• *James Constable (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

AFC Wimbledon	0
Oxford United	2



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